

Dispute at BL hardens as more men strike

A dispute between British Leyland and the Transport and General Workers' Union, to whom the 17,000 men on strike at company-owned Longbridge, appears to be widening although management and union are to meet tomorrow. Production at Longbridge, in Birmingham, is at a standstill.

Company-union talks led for tomorrow

Incident report
yland is to meet tomorrow in increasingly bitter over the com- and conditions

er of BL Cars official strike in company's imposi- tions increased from 3,000 to about 86,000 hourly paid

Over 5,000 laid off, "the Mini at the plant in Birmingham" by Rover saloons, Range Rovers, Range Sherpa vans was standstill.

ewest and most of the company's are to be reached. Sir Michael

chairman of BL

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an announcement would go ahead, seen the company sport and General

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Executive however

privately that has no intention

negotiations on

for widespread

working practices

pay increases of

10 per cent.

division between

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of Engineering

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800 BL members

ally.

Duffy, the AUEW

is the question of

strike to cross

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spaper group dismisses 165

until the dispute was over. Later publication of the Bristol Evening Post was also suspended.

Mr James Harrison, managing editor of the newspaper, said that the management was not prepared to continue publication under the "intolerable conditions" which had led to complaints from readers, newsagents and advertisers.

The union's action had mainly taken the form of mandatory chapel (office branch) meetings being held at short notice, disrupting production and leading on some occasions to the newspapers not appearing. The action had cost the company more than a million lost copies and £250,000 in revenue.

Japan's way to beat three-day rail strike

Japanese workers are making plans to overcome the disruption from an expected three-day national rail strike by taking clothes, blankets and quilts to work so they can sleep in their factories, banks, shops and offices. All hotel rooms in Tokyo and other large cities have been reserved.

New measures to be an-

All hostages are well, Red Cross doctor says

From Tony Alway

Tehran, April 15

A Red Cross doctor left Tehran for Geneva yesterday after telling journalists that all the American hostages held by militant students were in good health.

Dr Bernard Liebeskind, who flew to Tehran especially for yesterday's visit to the occupied United States embassy to interview the hostages, said they had only minor ailments that could be easily treated.

"They are all in good condition", he said. "Most of them have no complaints from the physical point of view... they were also well psychologically."

His only reservations were about one hostage who seemed

"anxious" and two others who

appeared to be undergoing a bout of depression.

Dr Liebeskind and the permanent Red Cross representative in Tehran, Mr Harold Semid de Grueneck, said they were satisfied they had seen all the hostages. Other sources said they checked off those they saw against a prepared list they took into the embassy. The officials would not say how many they saw, but they did not, as the students had claimed yesterday, see all the hostages in one room during their eight-hour examination. They reported being led into several rooms.

Meanwhile, the text of a somewhat diffident reply from Ayatollah Khomeini to a message from the Pope was published today. In it the Ayatollah urged the Pope to "frighten the United States Government from oppression, bullying and plundering" rather than worrying about growing dangers in Iran and the Middle East.

The Islamic nation of Iran welcomes the difficulties which come with severing American relations and does not fear the graver dangers of which you have written", the message said.

"Advise Mr Carter, who is facing final defeat, to behave according to the humanitarian criteria of nations which seek absolute independence."

Family message: Messages for their families from the hostages were passed on by telephone today soon after Dr Liebeskind returned to Switzerland (Our Geneva Correspondent writes). The messages are being followed up by short medical reports.

Dr Liebeskind described the health of the hostages as generally good. He had made arrangements to see the Iranian doctor in charge of them. "This doctor is there every day", he added. "It is a specialist is needed, one comes rapidly from the town".

Mother's visit: The mother of one of the hostages arrived in Paris today in an effort to obtain a visa for Iran so she can visit her son and talk with his captors.

Mr Barbara Timm, of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, his husband and two lawyers went to the Iranian Embassy this afternoon where required by management, and an effective end to "mutuality" where manning and other issues have been negotiated with local union officials.

AP.

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United States warning, page 6



Sir Alec Guinness with the special Academy Award he received in Hollywood for a lifetime's contribution to films. "Kramer vs Kramer" won five of the Oscars. Details, page 7.

Paris ministry hit by terrorist rockets

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, April 15

Three attacks were staged early this morning against the French Ministry of Transport and two of its annexes by terrorists who described themselves as members of the Direct Action organization. This group had claimed responsibility for the attacks earlier this month against two computer firms in Paris, and for the manufacture of the office of the Minister for Cooperation on March 18.

Today's attacks did little material damage and no one was hurt. The first two, against the Interministerial Committee for Road Safety and against the Ministry of Transport, took place within minutes of one another in the same district of Paris. Rockets were fired from a white Simca car in the street but were badly aimed.

The third attack was carried out with plastic explosive against the National Traffic Control Centre, which guides millions of Frenchmen on their holiday migrations to the mountains and the Riviera. Close circuit television consoles were damaged, but not the computer which processes all data on traffic conditions throughout the country.

An anonymous caller telephoned the French press agency to read a statement saying: "If appearances might lead one to believe that the Minister, Joel Le Theule (the Minister of Transport), was the only target of the attack, you should know that CII-Hewlett-Packard and IBM are working on a contract for the Ministry of Transport, and by these attacks we are killing two birds with one stone. This morning,

it was the turn of the 8th, the 14th and the 16th arrondissements. Tomorrow who knows? We demand the immediate liberation of our imprisoned comrades."

On March 27 and 28, in Paris and Toulon, the police launched a large scale anti-terrorist operation in the course of which 34 people were detained, including four presumed members of the Red Brigades involved in the assassination of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister. Nineteen have since been charged before the Court of State Security.

This morning's terrorist attacks are the last in a series by the Direct Action organization, which has been attacking one against the Ministry of Labour, the French Employers Federation, and other capitalist organizations.

Perhaps the attacks were not the work of a terrorist group at all, but of angry motorists, exasperated by the deafness of the authorities to mounting protests against the regulations of the past year obliging drivers to use dipped headlights instead of parking lights in town, as hitherto. These regulations have claimed a number of victims, blinded by bright lights, especially on wet, ill-lit streets.

A letter sent to the suburban office of a Paris daily contained threats against the Minister of Transport and the Director for Road Safety. "We shall give you this week, by means of violence, the only reply which you can expect", it said. "We have only one wall, and the Government leaves us no choice as to means. The guilty ones are those who, from provocation to provocation, drive honest people to violence and lawlessness."

Communist chosen NUS president

The National Union of Students, elected as president, the fourth in its history, at its annual conference. He is Mr David Aaronovitch, aged 25, a history graduate of Manchester University, and a member of the dominant Left-Alliance on the NUS executive. However, Mr Aaronovitch rebuked left-wing extremists who harangued the Conservative Mayor of Blackpool when he addressed the conference.

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New IRA targets: Bomb attacks against hotels in three Northern Ireland towns cause damage estimated at more than £1m

Diamond raid: Armed gang seizes £500,000 gems from dealer in Hatton Garden, London

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Moscow: How the May Day slogans illuminate Soviet policy changes

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Classified advertisements: Personal, 27-28; Appointments, 4, 6, 11; La crème de la crème, 25-27; Property, 24, 25

Business News, pages 27-28

Stock markets: Gilts fall back, pushing equities down. The FT Index closed 0.4 lower at 437.8

Leader page, 15

Letters: On allies' response to Carter plea, from Sir Robert Kilwardy and others; on Ulster, from Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP, and Mr R. A. Bruce; on Death of a Princess, from Mr Anthony Thomas

Leading articles: The troubles of RL: Master of Balliol and Czechoslovakia; Obituary, page 16

Sir Malcolm Knox, Dr David Carrick

Arts, page 16

Crime Reporters interviews Alan Whicker

who returns to television tonight with his investigation of the San Francisco Police

Ned Chalier on *The Sunday Times* National Student Theatre Festival at Southampton; plans for the Welsh National Opera's new season

Reviews, pages 6, 14

Edward Mortimer on the real issues in Iran; Bernad Levin gazes in wonder at the Sydney Opera House; Ronald Faux on a prison experiment; Dr Tony Smith on how the body deals with pain; Hidden dangers in the forest

Sport, pages 10, 11

Football: Johnny Giles resigns as Ellesmere Port manager; Racing: Tyrrhenian Stakes; Rowing: Coxed eight in Boat Race was suffering from hepatitis; Cricket: Bradman to lead MCC

Business News, pages 27-28

Stock markets: Gilts fell back, pushing equities down. The FT Index closed 0.4 lower at 437.8

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Mr Begin promises to speed talks on Palestinian autonomy

From David Cross

Washington, April 15

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has opened six hours of talks here with President Carter with a promise to do all he can to accelerate the pace of negotiations with Egypt on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

The idea then was that this fresh round of negotiations would take place in Washington where many of the details of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty were worked out. It is understood, however, that Mr Begin is not keen about the suggested single location for the new talks since Israeli Cabinet ministers would be too far away from home for a long time.

"We shall not interfere in the daily affairs of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, but we shall assure the security of Israel and the future of her children", he said on his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base on the outskirts of the American capital last night.

In his opening remarks, Mr Begin also sought to set his talk at the White House off on the right foot, by expressing his sympathy for the American hostages in Iran. The Iranian authorities represented "the most reactionary of revolutions" in history, he said, reflecting the views of most Americans.

During his talks at the White House today and tomorrow, Mr Begin and President Carter are expected to cover much of the ground already traced during last week's meetings here between the American leader and President Sadat of Egypt. All three men have said publicly that they are anxious to speed the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy so that some progress, at least, can be

achieved by the May 26 target date for their conclusion.

During last week's deliberations, Mr Carter and Mr Sadat agreed tentatively that a further round of intensive high-level discussions would be required if the May 26 deadline was to stand any chance of being met.

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Russian jet signifies end of era in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, April 15

If any further evidence is required that an era is drawing to an end in Rhodesia this week, it was provided this afternoon by the arrival of an Aeroflot Ilyushin 62 jet aircraft at Salisbury airport bearing the official Soviet delegation to attend Thursday night's independence celebrations.

It was not only the first time a Russian aircraft had landed at Salisbury but also the first occasion that senior Soviet officials had set foot on Rhodesian soil. The delegation was accompanied by a large number of Soviet officials.

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HOME NEWS

Extra rates may be necessary to fund teachers' pay rises recommended in Clegg report

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Many local authorities would have to levy supplementary rates or lay off substantial numbers of staff, including teachers, because of the size of the Clegg and other pay awards, Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the Conservative-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

After a meeting of the consultative council on local government finance with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, in the chair, and attended by Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Godfrey said there had been a "frank exchange of views" on the "very severe financial crisis" facing many authorities.

"We told the Government that if we accepted the Clegg Clegg report on teachers' pay, which I suppose we shall, then that, coupled with the comparability award for the local authority salaried staffs and the manual workers award,

we believe that they can make the kind of savings on school meals that the Government claimed would be made in drawing up its rate support grant. The money will have to be found by cuts in other areas.

The Government had given local authorities in England and Wales £2,500m on top of the basic £15,700m in the 1980-81 rate support grant to cover the extra costs involved in the comparability and normal pay awards and inflation, but that

had virtually all gone, Sir Godfrey said.

He believed that the Government had been "too optimistic" in its forecast in the Public Expenditure White Paper of the reduction in teacher numbers over the next few years.

The 18 per cent comparability award for teachers recommended by the Clegg commission is very close to both the Government's and many of the local authorities' own estimates of what the proposed award would be.

Most of the authorities I spoke to yesterday were confident that they had put enough in their contingency funds to meet the Clegg award for teachers in full. They were more worried about the teachers' 1980 pay claim for 20 per cent.

Some authorities have not put enough aside and they will face serious difficulties, particularly those covering rural areas which had hoped to make substantial savings by charging for school transport.

Furthermore, few authorities believe that they can make the kind of savings on school meals that the Government claimed would be made in drawing up its rate support grant. The money will have to be found by cuts in other areas.

The commission suggested in its report, published on Monday, that the salary scales for teachers in England and Wales might be applied to Scotland in order to eliminate the disparities in pay. Scottish teachers on the whole were paid less than the NUS executive for the past year.

Despite his membership of the Euro-communist movement, his views are in line with today's student body. Mr Aaronovitch went out of his way to criticize the activities of the extreme left wing who barracked the Conservative mayor of Blackpool throughout his speech yesterday.

For the second successive conference, a group of a hundred students booted and chanted slogans such as "Tories out", and "They say cut back, we say fight back". They had no manners, he said.

It would be a lot more difficult to persuade the public that Britain needed its 1,200,000 NUS members after such scenes, Mr Aaronovitch declared.

"These students have science fiction attitudes. They are in a space ship a million miles away. I cannot think of one college where students would condone that kind of behaviour."

Mr Aaronovitch, who was sent down from Balliol College, Oxford, after his first year for failing a German examination, comes from a communist family in north London.

The NUS president, who went to a comprehensive school and then to William Ellis, the former grammar school in north London, said he liked Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education, for his honesty and conscientiousness, although he did not share his political views.

The girl, announced yesterday, is one of the largest made to an overwhelming show of hands in favour. Mr Aaronovitch has staked his future on this review, to streamline the NUS and concentrate on national lobbying for bread-and-butter issues, rather than on broad-based campaigns about political and social issues.

All five full-time posts on the union executive went to the Left Alliance. Mr Leighton Andrews, one of the five new officers, is the first Liberal to hold such a post.

Leading article, page 15

teachers' pay before the full meeting of the Burnham Committee later on Friday.

But there was a general feeling among local authorities yesterday that the Clegg recommendations would be met in full and that there would be no attempt at that stage to tie them to teachers' conditions of service; that will probably bring up again during negotiations on the teachers' 1980 claim.

Scottish anger: Teachers in Scotland are angry over the treatment they received in the Clegg report. Thousands of pupils had their classes disrupted yesterday when teachers in the Strathclyde region walked out.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, which represents four fifth of the 60,000 teachers in Scotland, said that there was enormous indignation over the Clegg commission's failure to recommend specific scales for teachers in Scotland.

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Report fails to end ban on resort

By Our Labour Staff

Sunny Scarborough will continue to have a cloud of TUC wrack hanging over it after the publication of a report yesterday which fails to resolve a dispute over union recognition of hotel workers.

The town, once a favoured resort for union conferences, has been blacked by the TUC because the management of the Crown Hotel refused to grant bargaining rights to the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU) on behalf of staff.

Most unions have followed the TUC advice not to go to

Scarborough, although a handful of unions were unable to make alternative arrangements and will still be holding their conferences there this year.

Under the section 11 of the Employment Protection Act, soon to be repealed, the GMWU made a claim for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to carry out an investigation of its claim for recognition.

The Acas report published yesterday comes to no conclusion because the owners of the Crown, D.P. Hotel (Scarborough) Ltd, refused to co-operate with the service in

attempts to ascertain the views of the 30 or so workers employed at the hotel.

Acas says the union claimed last year, when the reference under the Act was made, that its membership had declined from almost 100 per cent to 65 per cent, but the company said it was not convinced that there was a substantial measure of support for the union among its employees.

The company refused to circulate a questionnaire to employees but a list of questions from Acas sent directly to 29 employees produced only nine responses

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£1.5M to set up management training centre

By Our Education Correspondent

New College of Higher Education, in Northampton, has been given £1,500,000 by the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation to establish a management training centre to provide intensive residential courses for middle and senior managers.

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The centre will be called the Blackwood Lodge management centre after the earth-moving industrial group founded by the late Bernard Sunley in 1941. It will be a two-storey residential wing with 32 study bedrooms, each with a bath-

room.



Mr David Aaronovitch: Backing for review of strategy.

New student leader is a communist

From Lucy Hodges

Blackpool

The National Union of Students elected the fourth communist president in its history at its annual conference in Blackpool yesterday. He is

Mr David Aaronovitch, aged 25, a history graduate of Manchester University and a member of the Left Alliance, which has dominated the NUS executive for the past year.

Despite his membership of the Euro-communist movement, his views are in line with today's student body. Mr Aaronovitch went out of his way to criticize the activities of the extreme left wing who barracked the Conservative mayor of Blackpool throughout his speech yesterday.

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Devolution does not offer the final solution, Irish minister says

From Christopher Thomas
DUBLIN

The first top-level political exchanges between Dublin and Westminster for six months ended last night without any sign that the two governments were able to narrow their differences over Northern Ireland.

The key issues raised in a day of talks at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin between Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, were: the prison H blocks; the constitutional guarantees on Ulster's position within the United Kingdom; the cross-border electricity link blown up five years ago by the Provisional IRA; and political questions, including proposals being devised by the British

Government for power devolution in Northern Ireland.

The one area of accord was on the need to restore a 275,000 volt cross-border electricity link, which is badly needed by the republic to augment its own generating capacity.

Mr Atkins, in his statement, indicated that the announcement was imminent.

Mr Lenihan expressed his concern over the situation at the H blocks in the Maze Prison, near Belfast, but there was no firm response from Mr Atkins.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, who has a programme of involving himself closely in all government departments, especially the two ministers and Sir Robert Blawie, the Irish Foreign Minister, told

Mr Lenihan that the Government's position on Ulster unity and said that while devolution was good in itself, it did

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Mr Lenihan explained his broad strategy of Westminster's plans on restoring Government to Ulster, but was unable to give details for protocol reasons; in any case, the scheme is not in an advanced state of preparation.

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CJF 16/4/80

Prudential profile No.1: Kenneth Fleet reporting



Kenneth Fleet, City Editor of the Sunday Express and a well known financial journalist, talks to Sir Hector Laing, Chairman of United Biscuits (right) and Brian Medhurst, Prudential Investment Manager (left) at the control centre of the Company's Harlesden factory.

“The Prudential invests £3 million a day. At the control centre of United Biscuits I find out where some of it goes.”

Kenneth Fleet: The Prudential invests up to £3 million a day. The selection of companies in which it invests is based on more than abstract analysis of performance and prospects, as Kenneth Fleet discovered when he accompanied Brian Medhurst on one of his regular visits to Prudential-backed companies. We join them in discussion with Sir Hector Laing at Europe's biggest biscuit factory.

Fleet: The Prudential is the largest institutional investor in the UK. How many companies have you invested in?

Brian Medhurst: (Prudential Investment Manager) In the United Kingdom, we have investments worth more than £1 billion, spread over 600 companies. Our holdings, however, range from a very small percentage in some to more than 7% of the capital of others.

Fleet: How do you regard your relationship with these companies?

Brian Medhurst: One of active interest in the progress of what is really a long term involvement. We know how much we depend on successful and enlightened management, and so we try to gain at first hand a clear understanding of management philosophy and attitudes.

Sir Hector Laing: (Chairman of United Biscuits) An approach which we welcome. We don't feel the Prudential is prying into our affairs. We like to give them confidence that our policies are right. It is a great company, with which we are proud to be associated. With their expertise, investing as they do in a very wide range of companies, sometimes the questions they ask us challenge our thinking. They help us to form our ideas for the future.

Fleet: Do you at the Prudential genuinely know and understand the manufacturing industry?

Medhurst: If we didn't, you might well ask what we have been doing for the past 30 years: for during that period we have built up a team of investment specialists who have been closely involved in studying companies and the industries in which we invest. I believe we know a lot about industry. What we do not know is how to manage industry, but that is not our job. You might say we are in the business of identifying and backing good management.

Fleet: Does the Prudential's size make you vulnerable to outside pressures?

Medhurst: Public and political opinion is focused on the way we behave. If we don't handle our responsibilities well, we are going to be criticised. The pendulum has swung considerably in recent years from an objection to 'interference' to one favouring active concern and involvement. We are glad it has. Our wish to get closer to companies is now seen in a favourable light.

Fleet: What is your attitude, Sir Hector, to so-called 'interference' in board room matters by institutional shareholders like the Prudential?

Laing: If the Prudential appeared to be 'interfering' in our company, it would indicate to me that they thought our plans, or our performance, were not good enough. Long before that arose, I would welcome somebody from the Prudential coming to talk to us about their worries. I would not consider it as interference, but rather as taking a responsible interest.

Fleet: So you have the kind of confidence in the Prudential which you hope the Prudential has in United Biscuits?

Laing: Yes. Confidence has got to be earned on both sides. We have total confidence in them, and so far, I hope, we have shown that they can have total confidence in us.

Fleet: Is the relationship between you a developing one?

Laing: Yes, it is. In the old family business days, the owners could not take their money out at short notice. The same is true of major institutional shareholders today.

Fleet: Can you, Brian, still vote with your feet?

Medhurst: Collectively we cannot, for one institution would most likely be selling to another. So, having developed confidence between ourselves and a company over the years, if there are weaknesses we can make suggestions and hope for a positive response. This is in everyone's interest and much better than simply selling our shares.

Fleet: Do you feel a social responsibility when you invest, which goes beyond getting the best possible return for your policyholders and shareholders?

Medhurst: There really is no conflict here. Our responsibility is primarily to the 8 million policyholders whose savings we are managing and we are committed, in a very competitive world, to achieving the best return on these savings. But society benefits from our channelling these resources into areas likely to produce the best return.

The Prudential's annual report is now available from the Publicity Department, Prudential Assurance Company Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Prudential

You don't know the half of it.

HOME NEWS

Eire campaign to legalize divorce opens to a discouraging statement from Mr Haughey

Hopes for an early change in the Irish Republic's controversial divorce laws were dashed yesterday by Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, just as a reform campaign got under way.

He told the Dail that there were no plans to alter the republic's constitution to permit divorce.

Faled marriage partners have had to be content with the legal classification "separated" since the republic's constitution was written 43 years ago. Separation orders do not allow remarriage. All demands for a change have been resisted by the Catholic Church and the Government.

Up to 100,000 people in the republic are believed to be potential divorcees. Our Dublin Correspondent writes: The Divorce Action Group, at its first press conference in Dublin yesterday, said its initial aim was to educate both people and politicians to the issue of marital breakdown,

which was far more difficult than appeared on the surface.

Mrs Maire Bates, a Dublin solicitor, who is chairman of the group, said they did not wish to offend anyone's beliefs, but they felt that divorce was a civil right which should be available to everyone who wanted it on proof that marriage had broken down.

A change in the Irish constitution to allow the dissolution of marriage requires a referendum and the organizing committee, many of them separated persons, felt that at present a majority would not favour such a change.

Consequently, they hope to alter that opinion by country-wide organization, the lobbying of politicians and the compilation of statistics on marital breakdowns. As the status "separated" does not exist on the census form, statistics are hazarded.

The whole area of family law in Ireland is extremely complicated. Couples whose marriages

break down have three options open to them.

They can seek a judicial separation, an extremely expensive High Court procedure (only 29 were granted in 1978), which does not permit remarriage.

They can seek a civil decree of nullity, which is enormously difficult to obtain (eight were granted in 1975) and usually hinges on impotence or duress; remarriage is allowed but any existing children are considered illegitimate.

Thirdly, a couple can apply for a deed of separation, which is drawn up by a solicitor; while it does not permit remarriage by either partner, it puts their affairs on a legal basis.

Often among working-class couples the most usual procedure in marital breakdown is the application of a wife for a barring order, which bans the husband from the home and is often granted with a maintenance order.

Lead in petrol action called vexatious

By Nicholas Timmins

Attempts by the parents of two London children to have the permitted limit of lead in petrol lowered, and to seek damages for alleged injury suffered from the lead in car exhaust fumes, were attacked in the Court of Appeal yesterday by counsel for a petrol company as "vexatious" and "ill founded".

BP Oil Ltd and Shell UK Ltd are asking for the claim to be struck out after a county court ruled that the two companies could be sued by Mr Nicholas Albery, on behalf of his son Morton, aged four, and by Mrs Elizabeth Budden, on behalf of her son Fidel, also aged four. Both live in west London near the M40 and M41 urban motorways.

The parents claim that their children have excess body levels of lead to which lead from car exhaust emissions has made an important contribution.

Mr Anthony Evans, QC, for BP Oil said that from the start of the action in July, 1978, the claim for damages seemed always to have been secondary. Evans now Mr Albery was seeking only unspecified damages, up to the county court maximum of £2,000.

The action included the seeking of an injunction that would have the effect of lowering the lead content of petrol, and Mr Albery's professed aim was "to

benefit urban children generally from what he regards as the harmful and also unlawful effect of lead emitted with the exhaust fumes from motor cars".

Mr Albery was a "leading light" in Calip, the Campaign Against Lead in Petrol, and the action had been brought with the collateral objective of furthering a campaign to influence the Government and petrol manufacturers, to reduce still further the permitted limit of lead in petrol.

By seeking damages at this early stage, when the children were so young, the parents were "prepared to sacrifice the children's right to compensation in favour of getting some immediate quasi-political victory".

Mr Evans conceded that the issue was important and that people like Mr Albery might have a genuine concern.

But both BP and Shell had complied with lead content regulations, and since the early 1970s had been actively reducing the lead content. The claim that the companies had been acting unlawfully or even negligently was ill founded, and the court should say no.

The appeal is being heard before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Bridge and Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce. The hearing continues today.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 8

PART-TIME VACANCIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE STUDLS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 1980, at 7.30 p.m. to receive the Annual Report and to transact any other business. The Chair will be taken by Air Chief Marshal Sir Alan G. G. G. T. D.F., A.F.C. Copies of the Annual Report may be had on application to the Secretary after the Order of the Council. H. M. R. Thomas, Secretary.

CHARITY OF TICHLAND CLOTHESLEY

Greater London Scheme for the Revival of the Charity. Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for a Charity, the name of which is to be determined by the Charity Commissioners. The scheme will be registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Annual Report may be had on application to the Secretary after the Order of the Council. H. M. R. Thomas, Secretary.

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS VETERINARY SERVICES SCHEME

Amendments are invited by the Board of Directors to the above scheme in the Islands of Colb and Skye. Further details may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 13 Rydon Street, London W1, or the Royal Veterinary College, 350 Gower Street, London EC1, telephone 01-523 4630 ext. 2247.

LEGAL NOTICES

Re: NEARYCO Limited and Company. Act 1948. Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORs of the above named Company are entitled to prove their debts or claims to the under-

mentioned date.

Re: ALNECATHERN Limited and Company. Act 1948. Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORs of the above named Company are entitled to prove their debts or claims to the under-

mentioned date.

Re: BERNARD PHILLIPS, F.C.A. Director.

The Companies Act 1948, in the matter of ALNECATHERN Limited, a company registered in the name of Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director of the High Court of Justice dated the 18th day of March, 1980, Certified Accountant of Messrs. Stewards, 22 New Cavendish Street, London W1, have been appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above named Company. All debts and sums due to the Company are to be paid to Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director-General.

Re: RICKY TODDS Director.

The Companies Act 1948, in the matter of GARDIAN LTD., a company registered in the name of Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director of the High Court of Justice dated the 18th day of March, 1980, Certified Accountant of Messrs. Stewards, 22 New Cavendish Street, London W1, have been appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above named Company. All debts and sums due to the Company are to be paid to Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director-General.

Dated this 10th day of April, 1980.

R. H. ROCHINS, Liquidator.

PART-TIME SECRETARY REQUIRED

To work 2-3 days per week varied work in small busy office. Languages an advantage. £4,500. Contact in first instance The Executive Secretary, Department of English Language Course Organisations, 261 York Street, London, W1.

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LEGAL NOTICES

RE: SPANGLAW Limited and Company. Act 1948. Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORs of the above named Company are entitled to prove their debts or claims to the under-

mentioned date.

Re: STANLEY L. L. LTD.

Re: R. H. ROCHINS, Director.

The Companies Act 1948, in the matter of STANLEY L. L. LTD., a company registered in the name of Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director of the High Court of Justice dated the 18th day of March, 1980, Certified Accountant of Messrs. Stewards, 22 New Cavendish Street, London W1, have been appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above named Company. All debts and sums due to the Company are to be paid to Mr. Ian Trehowhan, Director-General.

Re: BERNARD PHILLIPS, F.C.A. Director.

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Dated this 10th day of April, 1980.

R. H. ROCHINS, Liquidator.

Armed gang get £500,000 in diamonds

By Our Crime Reporter

An armed gang yesterday stole diamonds worth more than £500,000 from a dealer near Hatton Garden, London. The robbers used portable radios to call up a waiting accomplice in a car for their escape.

The raid on Gemco Diamond Merchants, at 10 Ely Place, occurred as the company was open for business. The gang, wearing balaclavas and masks, are thought to have entered the building where the firm has its offices by scaling scaffolding left in an alley at the rear.

As the employees of Gemco arrived for work at the fourth-storey offices they were met by three men with coshes and a handgun.

Eight members of the staff were captured and handcuffed. Under threat the keys to the office safe were surrendered. Inside were cut, uncut and polished diamonds.

The gang fled from Ely Place without notice and the alarm was raised 13 minutes after their escape. The road leads to Holborn Circus, where the gang could have taken several routes in the morning traffic.

Last night Scotland Yard appealed for anyone who may have seen a car with a driver using a portable radio in Ely Place or near by just after 8 a.m.

Detectives from the central robbery squad, led by Det. Inspector Patrick Fleming, are investigating.

Taking the strain: Weightlifters in the first World Cup of Powerlifting, at Crystal Palace, London, yesterday, gathering their strength for a final big heave. From the top: Eddie Pengelly, of Britain, Gordon Catterson, of Canada, Don McVicar, of Canada, and Herman Nurse, of Britain. Pengelly, now a lightweight, was world featherweight champion.

Lord Kagan in Paris court today

From Arthur Osman

Paris, April 15

Lord Kagan, who is to appear briefly before la chambre d'accusation of the Court of Appeal in Paris tomorrow claimed today that charges of theft, which he denied, had been brought against him by the Customs and Excise to add weight to Britain's demand for his extradition from France.

He told Maitre Jean-Pierre Karsenty, his lawyer, that the allegation of theft of £10,000 due from his own company, Kagan Textiles of Eland, West Yorkshire, had been brought against him to "influence" the French court, which would not have acted on charges involving infringement of exchange control regulations and fraudulent irregularities in Britain.

Maitre Karsenty saw Lord Kagan twice today in the Sante prison, where he has been since his arrest in Paris last week on an international warrant.

Maitre Karsenty said that if the court considered the theft allegations sufficiently serious

his client would not be granted bail. But Lord Kagan had denied the theft and said that the theft charges had been preferred only to make extradition possible.

A court of appeal official said that pending the arrival of the official papers from London, Lord Kagan's court appearance would be formal and would involve only further establishment of his identity and reading allegations contained in the international arrest warrant. The British Embassy in Paris said it would be represented in court tomorrow.

"When I saw Lord Kagan today he wanted me to apply for bail but I had to advise him that I did not see why bail should be decided now. The court never grants bail until it has had a chance to see the full file, so I told him there was no use in asking for it tomorrow."

Maitre Karsenty said that if the court considered the theft allegations sufficiently serious

TUC 'bastion of lace curtain discrimination'

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Confederation of Indian Organizations yesterday attacked the trade union movement as "the bastion of lace curtain discrimination in this country".

The criticism sprang from a meeting between the confederation and the race relations advisory committee of the Trades Union Congress.

The attack was a response to a letter from Mr J. Monks, secretary of the TUC's organization and industrial relations department, about record keeping of personnel by ethnic origin as a means of monitoring whether discrimination takes place.

Mr Monks said that there were divided views within the trade union movement and on the committee about the acceptability of ethnic records of employment, especially in a blanket nature. He wrote to Mr Kanti Nagda, the confederation's general secretary: "The TUC does not wish to over-emphasise the significance of ethnic record keeping to the possible detriment of the pursuit by unions of an equal opportunities policy."

"In certain circumstances record keeping will be indispensable, but in other cases the keeping of records may not be so important."

The confederation yesterday expressed regret at the TUC's divided views, and said: "Lack of equal opportunities for the non-white trade unionists both on the shop floor and more so in official level within the various trade unions is conspicuous."

Only by the enforcement of record keeping by law could racial discrimination in employment be overcome.

The citation said: "Without doubt her actions saved a considerable number of lives, particularly those babies."

"She worked each day, washing, salving and sores, which at times were so bad that she had to be assisted with art of the babies until she was able to feed them."

After the presentation, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, presented Mrs. Morris, of Lishburn, Co Antrim, with a Secretary of State for Trade plate award in London.

The citation said: "Without doubt her actions saved a considerable number of lives, particularly those babies."

"She added that she appreciated her own

Gust locks blamed for air crash

From Our Correspondent

accident investigator for the Department of Trade, told the inquiry that the gust control mechanism controlling the elevators and rudders could have been a possible cause of the accident.

If the mechanism was locked as the aircraft was under full power on the runway, it would be forced to the ground rather than rise up, consistent with the reported behaviour of the Dan Air aircraft, whose nose and left wing were down.

He said later that the Department of Trade during its investigation had reports from Dan Air pilots of occasional difficulty in releasing the gust locks.

Their investigators had found non-standard parts fitted to the aircraft. They had the same reports of non-standard parts

WEST EUROPE

Demand to impeach M Poniatowski over Broglie affair

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 15

The Gaullists want all light to be shed on the "Broglie affair", which is now called the "Poniatowski affair". M Claude Labbé, the chairman of the Gaullist parliamentary party, declared the lobbies of the National Assembly today. The Communists find the revival of the controversy over the still obscure circumstances of Prince Broglie's assassination a heaven-sent opportunity to divert attention from the skeletons in the past of M Georges Marchais and their leader.

They have tables a resolution demanding the impeachment of M Michel Poniatowski, the former Minister of the Interior, before the High Court of Justice accusing him of withholding from the judicial authorities the information contained in two police reports published by the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

These documents, of which the authenticity has not been challenged, indicated that the police knew (and the minister could not have ignored) that the victim's life had been threatened several months before he was shot in a Paris street on Christmas Eve, 1976, but did not warn him or take any preventive action. The documents are not included in the official file of the case.

The Socialist parliamentary group, which hesitated between supporting the Communist resolution or tabling one of its own, decided on the second course. M Georges Filiol, the spokesman for the Socialists, emphasized that the Socialist resolution was based on three accusations: non-assistance to persons in danger, violation of the secrecy of the judicial investigation, and withholding of documents from the investigating magistrate.

The Opposition can have no illusions about the success of its attempts to secure the impeachment of M Poniatowski, and has

resorted to this rusty legal weapon only to prevent the Government from quietly shelving the affair.

The High Court of Justice, the only one under the constitution, before which a minister can be called to account for his actions in office, has since its creation in 1958, sat only once—20 years ago, to sentence a former Vichy minister to 10 years of banishment.

The impeachment must be demanded in a resolution signed by 50 or more members of the assembly or the Senate. Then, after the steering committee of the House has declared the resolution receivable in form, it goes before a special committee of 15 members, selected in proportion to the strength of each political group.

If impeachment is recommended, it must be confirmed by an absolute majority of both Houses. The Opposition does not condone one in the Assembly, and M Labbé said the Gaullists would not support it. But they insisted on a reopening of the judicial investigation of the case, which was closed a few weeks ago. If the Court of Appeal decided against it on Wednesday week, they would take some other initiative such as a demand for the setting up of a parliamentary commission of inquiry.

M Labbé added: "M Poniatowski would indict himself before the High Court of Justice if he did not shed sufficient light on the affair by other means."

"We will support any action capable of shedding light on an affair which involves the assassination of a member of Parliament and also—a serious matter—the possible responsibility of a Minister of the Interior."

"Now that's reasonable. It doesn't mean to say that we barter one thing against another. It means that we consider the problems, each separately, on their merit, but we consider them within roughly the same timetable."

Coolness in Whitehall to Thatcher optimism

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The suggestion by Mrs Thatcher that "things are a little bit more optimistic than we were at Dublin" regarding Britain's demand for a reduction in contributions to the EEC budget yesterday went unchallenged in Whitehall.

Her remark was made twice in a television interview here last night. Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said that in addition to the various sanctions imposed and threatened by the United States and its allies "there are more immediate dangers confronting Iran closer to home".

He added: "There have

been reports—I believe credible reports—of a steady build-up of Soviet forces in the Transcaucasian military district. This build-up, in some respects, in some patterns is reminiscent of the gradual Soviet build-up north of Afghanistan."

The area to which he referred is in the Soviet Union alongside the frontier with Turkey and Iran. Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, said last weekend that the number of Soviet troops now in Afghanistan had risen to at least 100,000 and possibly to as many as 110,000. Earlier estimates by intelligence officials here had spoken of about 75,000 to 80,000 troops in Afghanistan proper and a further 20,000 or so on the Soviet side of the frontier.

Mr Brzezinski also mentioned the growing frontier tensions between Iraq and Iran as a danger to the national security of Iran. "If I were a responsible Iranian I would be con-

cerned about the condition in which Iran finds itself today, largely because of actions undertaken by Iranians", he said.

His comments reflect continuing efforts by the Administration to secure the release of the hostages by trying to convince the Iranians that they have

nothing to gain and much to lose by continuing to hold them.

The feeling here is that this line of argument is probably

accepted by President Bani-Sadr and Mr Sadeq Quisabzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, but has been rejected out of hand by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

During the interview, Mr

Brzezinski appeared confident that America's Japanese and West European allies would soon agree to introduce the economic sanctions against Iran requested by President Carter.

He was careful not to criticize

the lengthy deliberations of the allies, pointing out that in democratic countries it always

takes some time for the various

options to be debated and then

acted upon. He made it clear,

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tion's patience towards Iran, in

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ible. There was some confusion

here today about whether the

two International Red Cross

officials, who visited the

hostages in the American

Embassy in Tehran yesterday,

saw all 52 captives believed to

be held there. Both the officials and the militants holding the hostages refused to disclose the

exact number of hostages who had been interviewed.

OVERSEAS

US warns Tehran of Russian military build-up near frontier

From David Cross
Washington, April 15

The United States has warned Tehran that Iran's national security and general well-being are being increasingly threatened by its refusal to free the 53 American hostages.

In a television interview here last night, Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said that in addition to the various sanctions imposed and threatened by the United States and its allies "there are more immediate dangers confronting Iran closer to home".

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hostages refused to disclose the

exact number of hostages who had been interviewed.



The driver of an empty bus escaped with minor injuries when it skidded and came to rest on a motorway parapet near Chicago.

Britain to give £75m in aid to Zimbabwe

Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

A substantial aid programme

to Zimbabwe, amounting to

£75m over the next three years,

was announced yesterday by

Lord Carrington, the Foreign

Secretary.

The aid includes a grant of

£7m for urgent post-war recon-

struction and an allocation of

£500,000 for joint funding with

British voluntary agencies and

refugees.

The bulk of the money will

be devoted to a bilateral aid

programme allocated in agree-

ment with the new Government.

Lord Carrington said that a

mission from the Overseas

Development Administration (ODA)

would be visiting the

country soon after independence

day on Friday to identify

ministers.

At the request of the new

Government Britain was provi-

ding assistance with police

training, broadcasting, the civil

service and the foreign service.

There was also to be separate

provision for assistance with

the training of the future Zim-

bawne Army.

Because of the exceptional

circumstances, Lord Carrington

said that Sir Geoffrey Howe,

Chancellor of the Exchequer,

had agreed that £15m should

be made available over the next

two years from the public

exchequer to the Zim-

bawne Government.

This would be "a serious mistake to

allow firms who had broken sanctions

to profit from the amnesty", he

said. The amnesty would

be established in six months

in Syria.

The first president to

respond to the

Government's

proposal

was

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition

spokesman on foreign affairs,

said it was a "serious mistake to

extend the amnesty to

those who had broken

sanctions".

The amnesty, he added, would

not reopen past judgments. But

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition

spokesman on foreign affairs,

said it was a "serious mistake to

extend the amnesty to

those who had broken

sanctions".

SEAS.

Japanese bed down in offices to at railway strike

lazhurst
15
with the prospect of national transport during the next millions of Japanese offices, offices and to ensure that for business as workers unions and executives increase, workers' bkyo were seen bands of rented inlets into banks, business firms and offices in Tokyo and cities have been company employees and workers are ex- into the city to- strike is not

ichi Bank hired quilts for employees to stay inkyo banks, it is claimed that had cooperated to keep premises over not received from the union, strike is an annual strike would just a get to work if sleep here". he

rush hour this reds of thousands are seen carrying and a change of and Waco, two ment stores in of Tokyo will tomorrow. In both stants will either

With the exception of the Japan's long-distance "bullet" trains and a few municipal rail and road transport systems, all commuter transport is expected to come to a halt tomorrow.

The Japan National Railway workers' union plans to paralyse all transport, including subway trains in big cities, on Thursday and Friday if wages are not raised. Railway officials have offered to raise salaries by an average £21 a month. The union wants £22.

But Japan's annual spring labour offensive, known as the "Shuto", is somewhat of a ritual and a show of strength is considered necessary.

As a concession, the unions have agreed to run trains carrying all perishable goods and school excursion parties during the next three days.

More arrests in case of Indian murder attempt

Wigg
5
magistrate today custody until man accused of murder Mrs the Indian Prime Minister an open close range. She was described by police as aged 37, who in a textile baroda, western state and charged after the incident s of Parliament

upta, the magistrate for 14 by the prosecution the remand was now exhaustive into the accused background and whether he was others".

have already investigation in elsewhere in Five people have including the elder brother, to work as an state's public

In another Delhi court today Judge D. C. Aggarwal dismissed a charge against Mrs Gandhi and five others in the so-called "Jeans case".

In a report to the House of Representatives, science and technology committee in Washington, the Office of Technology Assessment admits that the AST development is clouded by uncertainty, that such an aircraft could have a role if air traffic continued at high rates.

It cites gains in productivity through such as aircraft's ability to transport up to 300 passengers over distances of more than 2,700 nautical miles at speeds of around 1,300 mph. It projects development of 400 ASTs worth about \$50 billion (or 1979 values) in the 1990-2010 period, if economic and environmental contingencies can be met. The 400 ASTs would replace 800 subsonic aircrafts.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) spends \$10m a year on supersonic studies, and the Office of Technology Assessment estimates that it should be increased to up to \$60m if an AST is to be ready for the 1990s.

Mr. Richard Fitzsimmons, director of advanced engineering for Douglas Aircraft, California, said that a McDonnell Douglas half of Concorde's fuel consumption. Like British Aerospace, Bristol, Douglas has a small team of designers working on AST designs, and the two teams keep in informal touch.

if suspends Concorde to Texas

dent
ternational, the airline is to accede flights between and Dallas/Texas from June using fuel costs. At time as this fixture of the liner, the United States' Office of Assessment is increases in the advanced superconductor (AST) research programme, lead to a second concorde towards the century. Concorde on British Airways and a subsonic service each week between and Dallas yesterday that re especially high it was designed fuel efficiency needs. Services had risen by since the service in January last time added. Last made a loss of \$1, while its fuel sharply with a number of new normal first-class Concorde flights, some 20 minutes by subsonic aircrafting just below the ad.

April 15
by the Archbishop of Canterbury and 24 Anglican bishops from all over as failed so far to be South African to return the pastoral care of the South Council of Churches, taken from him on

the bishop has a visit to London which "consultation" to be held in April 21 to 26, the Government relented. In June, to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. appeal by the 25 ad was made in the time of the en-

thronement of the Most Rev Robert Runcie. It deplored the seizure of Bishop Tutu's passport, pointing out he had been charged with no crime, and complained that this was "a seriously disturbing harassment" of the South African Council of Churches.

The bishop said he had received messages of support from many friends abroad, including his old parishioners in Grove Park, south-east London, and in Bletchley, Surrey. He said he was "a little sore" at having to miss a family birthday party for his son, who is a teacher in Fulham.

No reason has been given for the action against the bishop, but it probably reflects the official belief that he has been using his post at the council to promote political causes.

Bishop Tutu, unashamed, has

Increasingly militant Islamic organization is drawn into open opposition to regime of President Sadat Muslim zealots demand return to law of Koran in secular Egypt

This is the fifth and final part of a series on Egyptian opposition leaders.

From Our Correspondent

Cairo, April 15

The slightly built, curly-haired leader of young Muslim zealots in Egypt said calmly that the aim of his movement is to make Islam "a living truth and practice" in the daily life of this traditionally cosmopolitan country.

His call has political overtones and it has drawn him and his increasing number of followers on university campuses into notable open opposition to the regime of President Sadat, its peace policies with Israel, its hospitality towards the deposed Shah, its rapprochement with the West and a host of domestic policies.

Mr Helmi el-Gazzar, a 25-year-old university medical student, was elected leader, or "prince of princes" as he is known inside his movement, 18 months ago.

His organization, itself, is called "Islamic groupings" and is dedicated to replace the country's secular regime by original Islamic doctrines and to inculcate conservatism. Muslim morality and respectability in public and private life in the place of what they see as Western-inspired permissive modern ways.

The change would involve such an upheaval in established procedures and rules as to be equivalent to the overthrow of the regime.

Normally the religious aspect of his call has created friction between the followers of the Islamic revival and the six million Coptic minority in Egypt, and the tension has spilled out at least into one violent clash between the two groups on a university campus.

"We want Muslims to become religious to pray five times a day. We refuse this way of life, the whole conditions of this country . . . We

want them to be Islamic in their way of life," Mr Gazzar said emphatically to a small group of journalists in his first publicized appearance. "The Koran must be the law of the country."

Although Mr Gazzar's call for reform has sprouted branches of his movement in Egypt's 17 universities and has won over 10,000 students, he is considered a discredited, who are frustrated by the disparity with the rich and who, most often, are a distinct minority among the country's 500,000 university students.

The women are invariably shrouded from head to toe, showing only their face, their hands, and the tips of their shoes. The men are most often bearded.

Even though Mr Gazzar has dedicated to go our into the villages and small towns to "call the people to the right path of God", the missionaries are expected to make little headway since the mainstream of Egyptian Muslims appear much

more in tune with Mr Sadat's devout, but tolerant, views.

But by opposing or supporting issues on the basis of Koranic teachings, Mr Gazzar and his group are able to attract young Muslims who consider themselves the dispossessed, who are frustrated by the disparity with the rich and who, most often, are a distinct minority among the country's 500,000 university students.

For example, Mr Gazzar, who himself comes from an obscure farming community in a Nile delta village, rejects peace with Israel because he said: "Our Koran says any person who takes a piece of Islamic land is considered an enemy until he leaves it. Israel has occupied Palestine since 1948."

In the case of the deposed Shah's presence here, Mr Gazzar said: "There is a principle in our religion that says he who has killed must be killed. This is justice. The Shah has killed thousands of Muslims, so the

Iranian people have the right to accuse him or forgive him." Thus, soon after the Shah arrived in Egypt on March 24 accepting refuge here, the Muslim revolutionaries demonstrated on several campuses demanding his leave. But Mr Sadat and his Government have shown no reaction to the call, and the President, who a year ago, warned the country "not to mix politics with religion" has still made no public pronouncement.

example,

Although Mr Gazzar claims that he and his followers have nothing against Christians, they nevertheless are unnecessarily aroused feelings by referring to them as "crusaders", and the Government has linked groups of fanatics to the January bombing of two churches in Alexandria.

As Mr Gazzar ended his meeting, his followers said: "The Koran is our constitution, Mohammad is our leader, holy war is our way. For it, we live and die."

Dutch to see TV film on princess

From Robert Schuyl

Amsterdam, April 15

The executive committee of the Netherlands Broadcasting Foundation decided today to go ahead with tomorrow night's scheduled broadcast of the controversial British television film *Death of a Princess*, which was shown on independent television last week.

Saudi Arabia and other Islamic states consider the film a dramatic dramatization of events leading to the execution of a Saudi princess accused of adultery to be offensive to their faith.

Considerable pressure has been brought on the Netherlands by the Dutch Minister of Justice, Mr. Hans Kriegel, that the decision was his would not broadcast the film. Dutch companies with interests in Saudi Arabia appealed to the network to take these interests into consideration before making a decision on whether to show the film.

Mr. Erik Jurgens, chairman of the Dutch network, described the film as a "well-balanced journalistic product". He saw no reason not to go ahead with the broadcast.

Legal threat: The General Secretary of the Islamic Press says it will sue ATV over the film *Death of a Princess*, charging it with malicious attacks against Islam and Saudi Arabia.

Our Arts Reporter writes: An AST spokesman said that, since the statement about the threatened lawsuit said proceedings were imminent, it would be "wholly inappropriate" to make a comment.

He found that the evidence collected was "wholly wanting" to secure a conviction on the charge of exerting pressure on the leading Indian business houses to supply free more than 100 Jeeps for the Congress Party in the 1977 general election campaign.

With this, all the cases brought during the Janata Government against Mrs Gandhi have now been disposed of.

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Social Focus

The prison that improves and not just confines

Through the heavy bars of the highest windows there is a glimpse of countryside where the edge of a golf course rises over a grey tide of rooftops. Occasionally the upper deck of a bus cruises silently through this fragment of the outside world, the only movement beyond a close horizon of tall, austere walls that have one door set with a heavy lock. Through the door there is the régime of the main prison; the grey, uniformed and closely-disciplined world of convicts serving a penance of time.

It is unpromising ground for a delicate experiment that may still have more sceptics than admirers. The special unit at Barlinnie, Glasgow, is a prison grafted on to the core of another prison and arrested there under suspicion of radicalism because it does not obey the old conventions of how crime should be punished.

Whoever heard of relations between convicts (convicts) and screws (prison officers) that were not rooted in asperiority or of a prison system that did not hold a prisoner's nose firmly in a sense of his own criminality?

But for the ending of capital punishment, society would have dispensed quite a few of the 17 men who have been through the special unit. When hanging stopped a new type of prisoner appeared in the system: young, ruthlessly violent, and with nothing to lose because society had nothing to punish him with except an even more indeterminate sentence. Worse still, such prisoners proved they could trigger extreme violence and become the heroes of a prison sub-culture with a reputation to live up to.

In the 1960s there were 40 serious incidents in Scottish prisons, which had problems enough from over-crowding, under-staffing and a keenness for committed or relatively minor charges. A high proportion of Scottish prisoners are serving sentences of under two years, many for non-payment of fines.

The Scottish Prison Officers' Association demanded a change more out of a sense of self-protection than any committed wish to reform the system. Many of their members were in real danger. Something had to be done to defuse the violence that infected prison life. Seven years ago the special unit was opened in the former women's wing of Barlinnie, a Warren of rooms walled off from the main prison.

It was unique of its kind in Europe, isolating and containing the most violent and disruptive members of Scotland's 5,000 prison population.

The latest anniversary lunch saw the inmates (five serving life sentences for murder; two others six sentences between them for violent assault) sitting down with prison staff, senior officials of the Scottish

prison service and prison governors. Surely a bizarre scene by traditional standards. One might almost have expected Flech the amiable can to appear and lecture the assembled company on the criminal's role in society. The party, an annual event, did demonstrate the sharp changes in attitude allowed by the special unit approach.

After seven years, the scheme remains an experiment. It has survived some hair-raising publicity and attacks but can produce at least one salutary statistic. In the 1970s incidents of serious violence in Scottish prisons fell from 40 in the previous decade to five, showing that when particular strong-minded and volatile individuals are removed from the normal system, tension eases.

Several inmates have returned voluntarily to the normal prison régime. Some failed to respond to the special unit system and had to leave. Others have been freed. So far none has returned to prison even when released to a very unpromising and unpredictable social background. The number released so far is so small, however, that no one is seeking any grand claims.

The most frequent criticism aimed at the special unit is that it denies prisoners privileges which they have not yet by appealing behaviour. The feeling persists that their punishment is somehow being reduced when it should be made more severe. When the unit was last mentioned in Parliament, Mr Ian Sproat, MP for South Aberdeen, demanded: "Do you know whether James Boyle was receiving any special privileges not extended to other inmates?"

Boyle, serving a minimum of 15 years for murder, was a founder inmate of the unit and its most spectacular conversion. Once part of the brutal violence of Glasgow's gangland he has successfully taken up sculpture, published his autobiography (which was smuggled out) and studied for a university degree. His marriage to a psychiatrist, who met him in the special unit after reading his book, filled the headlines, and Scottish Television are now filming his life story.

What kind of justice and punishment, the hard-liners might ask, is that? The point is that the prison service does not hand out punishment—that is a function of the courts. The "punishment" is the loss of liberty and the function of the prison is to guide the offender to "a good and useful life" on release.

Where a prisoner behaves so badly and violently that he is clearly not responding to the constructive efforts of the prison service, he may be considered as a candidate for the special unit—although he

is more likely to end up in the heavily disciplined segregation unit at Inverness.

It is not a soft option. The Barlinnie unit is unmistakably a prison with the same claustrophobic sense of containment and the same whiff of well-treated air. But behind the locked door in the high wall the old disciplines are replaced by others which are more subtle.

The staffing ratio is three officers, working shifts, to one inmate—very high compared with the mainstream of prison life. Females do not wear uniforms. Relations with prison officers are informal and on first name terms. Visiting rules are more relaxed and there is freedom within the walls to take up painting, sculpture, writing and horticulture. The shallow soil of the unit yard has yielded some remarkable results under advice from the Glasgow parks department, although a dim view is taken of tall trees or wall-clinging shrubs.

The prisoners themselves have a say in how the unit should be run. There are regular community meetings at which problems are talked through in the hope that strong volatile personalities can better withstand the strain of close high-security confinement for years on end.

The approach demands as much conscientious understanding and change from the old orthodoxy among prison officers and the prison service as it does from the inmates. It requires careful selection so that those who enter the unit benefit from the experience and do not distort the system.

What is frequently asked is whether the Barlinnie experiment has a wider application so that institutionalized prisoners may learn to adapt more easily to life outside and imprisonment can be made positively improving rather than merely confining.

Prison officers still whole-heartedly support the idea and believe it has worked well, although they see some limitations. It should not, they say, be regarded as a "cure-all". It is perhaps unrealistic to imagine that the Government could provide the necessary finance for the high staffing ratios or specialized buildings to accommodate any major extension of the scheme, although "control" units with a strongly disciplined approach are costly, too.

But judging by the interest this small experiment in a jail within a jail has created world-wide, and the practical results achieved, it surely offers some hope for reforming the way in which society serves up its "porridge".

Ronald Faux

Clues to the way the body deals with pain

One of the recurring themes in folk legends is the indestructibility of the hero—the man who goes on fighting apparently indifferent to appalling injuries. Most of us are fortunate enough to have no personal experience of being injured in combat, but first-hand accounts suggest that battle wounds often cause little or no pain at the time. Indeed soldiers may believe they have escaped injury and later be surprised to discover bullet holes and broken bones.

Until recently the best theory that could be offered for the absence of pain in these circumstances was that it resulted from some psychological mechanism—an example of the power of mind over matter. The explanation that has emerged from recent research is more prosaic but in many ways more exciting. As our understanding of the complex mechanisms in the brain that control pain sensation has improved, the answers are beginning to explain other enigmas, from the effects of acupuncture to opium addiction and the action of placebos.

It was, indeed, the opium poppy that provided the starting point of this research story. Opium and its derivatives, morphine and heroin, are by far the most effective drugs for relief of pain, and pharmacologists have long been puzzled by the enormous gap between their effects and the relief given by other drugs. The first clue came with the discovery that within the brain some of the nerve cells

concerned with the perception of pain seem in chemical terms to have been tailor-made to react with opium. The most likely explanation was that the patients had stumbled by accident on opium, which alone among millions of plant alkaloids happens to share the chemical structure of a substance formed within the brain specifically to block the perception of pain.

This hypothesis was confirmed in 1975, when two substances closely related to opium were extracted from pig brain. Further research has identified the endorphins, chemicals formed within the brain, as its natural pain-relieving hormones. These are the substances which normally react with the receptors to which opium also is attracted.

Research on animals and on human volunteers is currently unravelling the complexities of the brain's built-in potential for suppressing pain sensation. Endorphins are secreted at times of stress—explaining both why soldiers feel no pain in battle and why minor pains such as toothache may disappear when one is preoccupied by a crisis, only to return when the stress is over. Endorphins almost certainly provide the key to the action of acupuncture: during acupuncture endorphins are slowly released into the fluid around the brain—so explaining the slow onset of the relief of pain by this method.

Endorphins also seem to explain how "placebo" dummy tablets may be effective

in relieving pain in about 50 per cent of patients given them. Certainly when a drug, naloxone, which blocks the action of both opium and endorphins, is given to these patients their pain is no longer relieved—strongly suggesting that the effect of the placebo on the brain is in some way to stimulate the release of endorphins.

The misery suffered by heroin addicts is more understandable, too. By massively overdozing the brain's receptors for endorphins, addicts probably disturb their sensitivity so that when heroin is withdrawn normal amounts of endorphins have little effect. The dramatic relief given by acupuncture to the withdrawal symptoms of addicts is presumed to be the result of a restoration of the balance.

For the time being research into the actions and associations of endorphins seems unlikely to affect most patients in hospitals and doctors' surgeries. Already, however, the findings have cleared away some of the mysteries that have fogged our understanding of pain and its relief. Pain may be controllable by mental effort—but the mechanism is chemical as much as psychological. Before too long our better understanding should help to provide a sounder scientific basis for the development of new drugs and the exploitation of techniques such as acupuncture.

Dr Tony Smith

Why craft teachers need support

Speaking just before Christmas at a conference for women teachers of craft, design and technology (CDT), Mr Mark Galilee said: "Whatever the coming changes in curricular emphasis, I have no doubt that craft, design and technology has an important part to play in it... The creation of goods and the creation of wealth is an indivisible process... And socialist craft, design and technology teaching is of national importance."

Hopes that CDT would be offered a 10 per cent share of school time were sadly dampened by the Woolly proposals in the Government's latest consultative document "A Framework for the Schools Curriculum". This advocated nothing more positive than that all pupils should have the opportunity to choose from aesthetic and practical subjects. A half-hearted approach, not likely to galvanize the high ability pupils into taking design and technology seriously, or the girls into training tradition by opting for engineering courses or craft apprenticeships.

However, the lobbying in favour of "craft, design and technology teaching for all" is increasing. Industry and com-

merce are intent on upgrading standards from shop floor to top management, hence the Manpower Services Commission's grant of £7m to the Construction Industry Training Board, the recommendations of the Fifeon Report, the creation of the first Chair of Design Technology at Brunel University, and the Design Council's awards to industry and schools.

The country urgently needs first-class engineers and designers. Equally, it needs managers who can communicate with technologists. It is essential that the grounding for these skills be given in the schools and yet, although we are comparatively well equipped with technical workshops, we are unable or unwilling to teach CDT to our most able boys. We tend to neglect the girls altogether and the craft skills that we offer to the non-academic pupil are often less than adequate.

The subject is so under-staffed that workshops are closing or are unable to cater for all the pupils. Girls are excluded from the subject by tradition. The syllabus has changed to a new, academically

solving problem base for which most of the teachers were not trained, and financial cuts have hit hardest at subjects like this, where the material resources are expensive.

Efforts are being made to remedy this. The Department of Education is currently recruiting and retraining 500 new teachers a year. Even so it will be several years before we reach a break-even point, let alone make up the 2,000 shortfall.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is urging special discriminatory provision for girls who wish to study CDT but were excluded from the subject at school and need crash courses in craft skills. But perhaps the most exciting developments are within the examination syllabuses. At all levels they have changed to introduce problem solving skills and communication techniques as well as craft skills and a knowledge of materials. Some of the work being done in the Level Craft, Design and Technology papers is of such a high standard that it is subsequently developed commercially. The best is likely to find its way

Susan Thomas

onto the TV screen in Young Scientist of the Year, appear in the finals of Young Engineer of Great Britain, or win the Design Council's coveted School Design Prize.

The fillip given by these competitions is hard to overestimate. They persuade the public, the universities and industry to take seriously CDT work in schools. They also introduce pupils to the work of the designer and technologist in industry, and they underline for teachers the help and support that bodies like the Crafts Council, the Department of Industry and the Design Council are prepared to give to schools.

The need is apparent, the support is available. This would seem to be the moment for all to make plain their concern at our failure to provide experience of good craft, design and technology teaching to the whole range of secondary pupils. Without it we will continue to lag behind our economic competitors. With it we can offer our children a more balanced education and a more informed choice of career.

Susan Thomas

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Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointment

also on page 4

SECRETARIAL

PEOPLE WITH A PURPOSE...
and a resolution to get a better job, better pay, better conditions, better friends, better opportunities, better choice of work, better opportunities for promotion, better opportunities for career development, better opportunities for personal development, better opportunities for personal growth, better opportunities for personal achievement, better opportunities for personal success, better opportunities for personal fulfillment, better opportunities for personal happiness, better opportunities for personal satisfaction, better opportunities for personal development, better opportunities for personal growth, better opportunities for personal achievement, better opportunities for personal success, better opportunities for personal fulfillment, better opportunities for personal happiness, better opportunities for personal satisfaction, better opportunities for personal development, better opportunities for personal growth, better opportunities for personal achievement, better 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SPORT

Football

Casts change, but the play may be the same

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

With a few alterations in the casts, the two FA Cup semi-final replays will be held tonight, and in the optimistic hope that Saturday's dramatic tie between Everton and West Ham United can be repeated and the other in resigned acceptance that Arsenal and Liverpool are likely to be just as uncompromising as they were the first time.

West Ham, who recovered after conceding a penalty at Villa Park, did enough to make the outcome of their replay more difficult to predict. They certainly benefited when Everton were reduced to ten men, and Walford, in his shadow, yesterday, Mr Neil said: "There was no real change in Nelson's fitness, so Walford would have to wait until today to see whether, this time, he could play a full match. O'Leary, still bruised from Bettaga's tackle, is to play.

Fairclough was brought on for Liverpool when it became clear that a rough, early challenge by Nelson on Case had done more damage than was at first thought. It transpired that he had quite a sore shoulder injury, and this could easily be further damaged if he plays this evening. McDermott is again ruled out because of an ankle injury, and Alan Kennedy's name having been mentioned, it is to be hoped that Dalglish is expected to come on full back.

Three Everton players were injured in the first match, Ross King and Lyons but they are all ready to play tonight. However, West Ham will be without one of their midfield players, Holland, who has damaged ligaments in his right knee.

It is compounded by the return to the midfield of Stewart, who had to play in the defence on Saturday. Lampard has recovered from a hip injury that forced him to miss the last two games. He stands in the defence, while Pike stands by in case Martin, who has tonsilitis, is unable to appear.

Bob Paisley and Terry Neill, managers of Liverpool and Arsenal respectively, have offered no hope of a more open, adven-

turous match at Villa Park, than the dour, goalless affair at Hillsborough, where, only the last few minutes contained enough excitement to compare with the other semi-final. Arsenal emerged from it under pressure in that period, and with a more favourable wind, could have won when Talbot's lob descended on the crossbar. Another struggle of attrition seems inevitable.

The Arsenal defence had to be changed in mid-match on Saturday, when Liverpool decided to put on Fairclough, the fast-running forward. Nelson, who had aggravated a hamstring injury, was removed to allow a fresh man, Walford, to follow Fairclough. Yesterday, Mr Neil said: "There was no real change in Nelson's fitness, so Walford would have to wait until today to see whether, this time, he could play a full match. O'Leary, still bruised from Bettaga's tackle, is to play.

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For the first time this season, Liverpool have several players under treatment at the same time. Their goalkeeping coach remains fit, but both Ross King and Lyons are also injured. Both will play but the manager has had to name a party of 14 instead of announcing his usual unchanged team. It would be wrong to think of this as tandem to the bench, but it may upset the team's harmony at a crucial moment in Cup and League.

Liverpool have substantial reserves strength, but as Mr Paisley said on Saturday, the balance is not quite right. The FA Cup is a long measure on mutual understanding, built up over several seasons. It is Arsenal's task to capitalise on any breakdown in teamwork, and to judge from the



The Wembley way: Brooking gets the Cup final feeling after scoring a goal during practice.

way they worried Liverpool towards the end of Saturday's game, they can still their third European Cup Final.

WEST HAM: (from) Parker, Lampard, Stewart, Holland, Pike, Dalglish, Devastor, Pike, Allen, Pearson, Cross, King, Lyons, Case, Johnson, Lee, McRae.

ARSENAL: (from) Jennings, Rice, Brady, Sunderland, Stancombe, Pritchard, Walford, Devastor, Darling, Adams, Martin, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, Lee.

LIVERPOOL: (from) Clemence, Neal, Souness, Dalglish, Barnes, Hansen, McRae, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, Lee.

Williams pins his hopes on an ancient cure

The ancient Chinese cure of acupuncture treatment enables the Southampton midfield player Steve Williams to appear for the England Under-21 team in their European championship semi-final round game against East Germany tonight.

Williams' career was threatened in January when he suffered a severe stomach muscle injury. Doctors tried several different treatments before Williams "got the needle". Now after just four first division games he is fit again and in his international career at Framall Lane, Sheffield.

The Southampton manager Laurie McMenamy was loathe to release Williams for such a tough match, but he relented after the West Bromwich Albion pair Owen and Robson had pulled out. Williams' coach, Ron Greenwood, and he made it clear that he needed Steve for such an important game, so I released him after he had had treatment here".

Rugby League

Hubbard aims to put more in his cupboard

By Keith Mackin

The New Zealand tourists, who are scheduled to arrive for three internationals next winter, will be flexing their muscles against Australia before flying to Britain. A number of Australian currently in London, and some who have been here, are in the process of getting a place on the New Zealand Rugby League, and seven matches will be played, including two internationals at Auckland. The first international will be played on June 12, the second on June 14, and the Australians' lightning and busy tour will include representative matches at Hawke's Bay, Wellington, and Chichester.

Here in England, the tour sub-committee are putting the final touches to the Kiwis' 13-match tour. The tourists will play against them and there will be three internationals in October and November.

A new five-year sponsorship deal has been agreed for the Lancashire Cup, which is backed by the Tourist Board. The £60,000 prize money for next season will jump to £100,000, a 66 per cent increase on this season's figure.

Steve Hubbard, Hull Kingston Rovers' try-scoring and goal-kicking specialist, who has had a full season has created one record and has two more in his sights. He has scored currently 357 points with 29 tries and 132 goals, breaking the Hull KR club record of 333 points by Rugby League's all-time record holder, Neil Morris.

With a minimum of four club matches remaining, Hubbard needs only 11 goals to equal the club record for goal kicking in the season, also by Neil Fox. Hubbard needs only 17 League points to equal the first division record for points in a season currently held by David Watkins with 288.

Appeal too costly

Phil Dwyer and Ronnie Moore, of Cardiff, are unlikely to appeal against seven day club ban which could cost them a deal in lost wages. "We've been told it is not worth the expense of lodging an appeal through the PFA", said Moore.

For the record

Golf

LEADING MONEYWINNERS (1979)
1. J. Watson, \$17,500; 2. J. Sander, \$12,000; 3. J. Sander, \$10,000; 4. J. C. Calfee, \$9,000; 5. J. C. Calfee, \$8,500; 6. J. C. Calfee, \$8,000; 7. J. C. Calfee, \$7,500; 8. J. C. Calfee, \$7,000; 9. J. C. Calfee, \$6,500; 10. D. Pohl, \$5,900.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston Red Sox, 100; New York Yankees, 100; Texas Rangers, 71; Cleveland Indians, 69; Chicago White Sox, 68; Baltimore Orioles, 67; Boston Red Sox, 66; Los Angeles Dodgers, 64; San Diego Padres, 63; Atlanta Braves, 62; San Francisco Giants, 61; New York Mets, 59; Detroit Tigers, 58; Milwaukee Brewers, 57; Texas Rangers, 56; California Angels, 55; Seattle Mariners, 54; Texas Rangers, 53; New York Yankees, 52; New York Yankees, 51; New York Yankees, 50; New York Yankees, 49; New York Yankees, 48; New York Yankees, 47; New York Yankees, 46; New York Yankees, 45; New York Yankees, 44; New York Yankees, 43; New York Yankees, 42; New York Yankees, 41; New York Yankees, 40; New York Yankees, 39; New York Yankees, 38; New York Yankees, 37; New York Yankees, 36; New York Yankees, 35; New York Yankees, 34; New York Yankees, 33; New York Yankees, 32; New York Yankees, 31; New York Yankees, 30; New York Yankees, 29; New York Yankees, 28; New York Yankees, 27; New York Yankees, 26; New York Yankees, 25; New York Yankees, 24; New York Yankees, 23; New York Yankees, 22; New York Yankees, 21; New York Yankees, 20; New York Yankees, 19; New York Yankees, 18; New York Yankees, 17; New York Yankees, 16; New York Yankees, 15; New York Yankees, 14; New York Yankees, 13; New York Yankees, 12; New York Yankees, 11; New York Yankees, 10; New York Yankees, 9; New York Yankees, 8; New York Yankees, 7; New York Yankees, 6; New York Yankees, 5; New York Yankees, 4; New York Yankees, 3; New York Yankees, 2; New York Yankees, 1; New York Yankees, 0.

Ferries

LTA seeks unity among the umpires

By Keith Mackin

Lawn Tennis Association officials are seeking a way to unite the two rival umpiring organisations in Britain. It was decided yesterday at the British Open Championships at Twickenham that Peter Hill, chairman of the LTA's tournament committee, confirmed that talks had been going on for the past few months.

"It would be good for tennis if we could have one organisation with two at present, and the former idea would be for the single body to be under the control of the LTA", he said.

"In almost any other sport I can think of, the governing body has control of the officials—the Football League, its referees, and the like. In tennis, the former idea would be for the single body to be under the control of the LTA", he said.

British has had two tennis umpiring organisations for the past five years, since the two bodies broke away from the Lawn Tennis Association.

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Skiing

British girls shine on the White Lady

By a 'Special' Correspondent

British girls filled four of the first six combined places to be taken respectively by the veterans of 11 years' competitive skiing, Valentina Iliffe, Christine Cairns, five times Scottish Junior champion, Tania Adams, and Andrea Jochum.

Again the White Lady run was blessed by good weather for the first time in six years. In the initial slalom, the British girls finished within 1.3 seconds of each other: Miss Weisler and Ursula Konsert (Lichtenstein) both returning the best time of 44.46 secs. Miss Iliffe's time was

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46.77 and that of Miss Cairns.

However Miss Iliffe showed the determination which had taken her back into the British Olympic team after being dropped for the 1976 games.

The combined side for the slalom and giant slalom events went to Petra Wenzel of Lichtenstein, sister of the double gold winner at the Winter Olympics.

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PARLIAMENT, April 15, 1980

Zimbabwe to get £75m from UK: other nations have promised help; amnesty for all who broke sanctions

House of Lords

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Government intended to commit over three years aid totalling £75m to Zimbabwe. Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced in a statement before leaving to represent the Government in the Commonwealth nations on Friday, Lord Carrington said the Queen would be represented at the celebrations by the Prince of Wales. The Governor of Southern Rhodesia (Lord Soames) would leave Salisbury on Independence Day.

Britain is thus (he continued) about to terminate its constitutional responsibility for Rhodesia and to transfer power to a government freely elected, under British supervision, by the Rhodesian people. We are sure that you will wish to make your own new country every success. (Cheers.)

We look forward to working closely with the Government of an independent Zimbabwe headed by Mr Mugabe.

After announcing the £75m aid, Lord Carrington said: "We are within this total commitment to include a £7m grant for urgent post-war reconstruction; an allocation of £500,000 for joint funding with British voluntary agencies of projects which will contribute to our share of expenditure through any extension of the Lone Covenant to Zimbabwe and to the special appeal of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and further humanitarian assistance."

The bulk of the £75m will be devoted to a substantial bilateral aid programme which will be aimed at helping the new Zimbabwe Government. A mission for political effects connected from the Overseas Development

Administration will visit Zimbabwe shortly after independence for talks with incoming ministers to identify projects.

At the request of the new government we are providing assistance with police training, broadcasting, the civil service and the foreign service. We are also providing assistance from the aid programme, assistance with the training of the future Zimbabwe Army.

Because of the marked extent of which the aid programme is already committed over the next two years, and in order to minimise the impact of this very substantial aid to Zimbabwe on the level of United Kingdom assistance to other countries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Geoffrey Howe) has agreed exceptionally that there should be made available from the public expenditure contingency fund a sum of £8m in 1980-81 with consequential adjustment of the cash limit and of £7m pounds in 1981-82.

We welcome Zimbabwe's accession to the Commonwealth as the forty-third member. This calls for further legal provisions.

An order under the Zimbabwe Act was issued before draft legislation in the next few days for approval by resolution. The principal purposes are to continue the application of certain United Kingdom laws in relation to Zimbabwe notwithstanding the change in status.

Similar provision has been made to be made good (he said) before any aid can be spent on production and production.

Mr Claudio Chignetti, EEC Commissioner for development, has been in Zimbabwe and has had talks with Mr Mugabe about EEC aid with UDI.

Mr Shore: Britain should do more

House of Commons

Granting an amnesty to British citizens who broke sanctions was a serious mistake, Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said after Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, had repeated the Zimbabwean line in the Commons.

Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets, Labour) said: "It is an event which has been ardently wished for by MPs on both sides for many years. I pay tribute to all those who have over the years, in spite of great difficulties, worked to accept the fact of UDI and worked for this proper and legitimate solution."

We are glad to be approaching this final act in the drama of independence-independence day.

Mr Shore said: "The proper and legitimate independence of Zimbabwe is an event which has been ardently wished for by MPs on both sides for many years. I pay tribute to all those who have over the years, in spite of great difficulties, worked to accept the fact of UDI and worked for this proper and legitimate solution."

Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets, Labour) said: "It is an event which has been ardently wished for by MPs on both sides for many years. I pay tribute to all those who have over the years, in spite of great difficulties, worked to accept the fact of UDI and worked for this proper and legitimate solution."

While it is not for Britain alone to undertake that burden I would have hoped that the Government would have thought fit to send the Overseas Development Administration mission to Zimbabwe to advise the new Government on the needs of its economy, whereas it has given us a figure first and is now proposing to send the mission out to see how it should be spent.

I would have thought that was the wrong way of going about it. I would have had further thought to the report it receives from the mission.

I hope we will make, along with the new Zimbabwe Government, a genuine appeal for international funds. We will be asking the United States to contribute. There are several other nations like Sweden, Canada, and others willing to contribute, not just the Commonwealth.

This is the matter on which I take up my cudgels with the Lord Privy Seal—the wide-ranging amnesty provisions.

It is right to give a political amnesty to offenders committed during the period of UDI within Rhodesia. That was a necessary part of achieving the spirit of reconciliation necessary in that country. To extend that to British citizens who have broken British sanctions is a serious mistake.

I regret this. I believe we have a duty to uphold our own laws. It is necessary for us to do so if we are to get rewards for our efforts by firms in Britain in future and if we are to carry the right impact on countries abroad as well.

I join him in his good wishes to the new country of Zimbabwe.

We all fervently hope for its success. We believe that its prime minister and new government have given an excellent lead. Sir Ian Gilmour—I am grateful for his gracious remarks at the beginning and end, and to the Foreign Office, for their support in the middle. He talked about large sums of money estimated three years ago. That produced no money at all. It is right for us to say what we should contribute.

He drew his argument away from what he subsequently said. There will be other countries that will contribute aid to Zimbabwe. We should have been open to considerable criticism if we had not done what we did and are prepared to contribute.

He made a deal of the amnesty and talked about it being wide-ranging. It is not wide ranging. There are no prosecutions pending. Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets) would think it would be wrong not to bring prosecutions for offences which are no longer offences.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles)—We wish the government and people of Zimbabwe well as they approach legal independence. I welcome the fact that the aid programme is being augmented and special provision for Zimbabwe.

Could he be more forthcoming about what will be done to meet the total needs of Zimbabwe, given the fact that two years ago there was an agreement on the need for an international aid programme post-independence?

Sir Ian Gilmour—No. No reason at all.

Mr Peter Shore—It is almost an absurdity to present the House with a figure before giving any indication of the current balance of payments problem of Rhodesia, the cost of the settlement needed, internally and externally, with the refugees or the question of the urgent need for land reform.

I hope he will be more flexible and give us a picture of consideration in that country. He will be prepared to discuss with his colleagues and report to the House accordingly.

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am sorry he has used this occasion for a slightly inappropriate niggle. We have had a very good debate on the question of the urgent need for land reform.

He said it will be more flexible and give us a picture of consideration in that country. He will be prepared to discuss with his colleagues and report to the House accordingly.

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am sorry he has used this occasion for a slightly inappropriate niggle. We have had a very good debate on the question of the urgent need for land reform.

Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Dartford, C)—He will be any word of comfort or hope for the广播 authorities and people in the broadcasting authorities and police are expected to remain in post after independence?

Sir Ian Gilmour—Not at this particular moment. (Laughter.) Mr Mugabe has said some encouraging things. The question should properly be addressed to the Treasury.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North-West Norfolk, C)—

'Wrecking' amendment on pensions rejected

House of Lords

If the Labour Government had pursued the retirement pensions policy now proposed by the present Government, the basic pension would have been about £5 a week less than it is, Lord Wells-Pestal moved, amending the Social Security Act 1975, and changing the standard by which retirement pensions are operated.

He said that at present pensions were up in line with increased price earnings, whichever were the greater. As a result of prices rising more in some years and earnings in others, pensions had risen faster than either. The amendment would preserve the system.

Is it bad for pensions to rise faster than earnings? It was generally agreed that the basic pension was too low. If the Government were not obliged to increase pensions on this basis, the rise would have to come from contingencies in competition with other pensioners. The Government's refusal to make good last year's shortfall was not an encouraging precedent.

Lord Banks (L) supported the amendment. He said that under the Bill if earnings rose faster than prices, pensioners would fall behind and become relatively poorer.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said there must be some provision to prevent the uprating date creeping forward. There was a need for some flexibility in the arrangements. This would be prevented if there was a fixed date as suggested in the amendment.

The implications of the amendment would be considerable. They

would not be able to claim for the ability of the economy to bear the cost.

Labour had failed to increase pensions in accordance with the present provision in two years. It was right to guarantee a minimum increase of 2 per cent and to leave it at that point.

Lord Dromalya (C) said that the earnings test was more difficult to calculate than the relevant pension.

The amendment was rejected by 116-89. Government majority 27.

Lord Wells-Pestal moved an amendment to provide that the uprating of retirement pensions would continue to not later than November 17, 1980, as originally proposed to November 21. He said that under the proposals in the Bill pensioners would be cheated of a week's increase.

Since the uprating rules had already been agreed for the uprating date from November 17, 1975 to November 12, 1979, if the Government had not done anything about it the 1980 uprating date would be November 10. It was reasonable for the Government to seek power to prevent this kind of discrimination.

But the Government was going further than this by allowing the uprating to take place at any time before the end of November. Pensioners and other beneficiaries would be cheated a week's increase. The Government's intention was to ensure a week's increase for the retired.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said there must be some provision to prevent the uprating date creeping forward. There was a need for some flexibility in the arrangements. This would be prevented if there was a fixed date as suggested in the amendment.

The implications of the amendment would be considerable. They

could not allow the present situation

Russian vodka veto

The Government hospitality fund would not pay in future buy Russian vodka, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Civil Service, announced in a written answer.

He said the amount of money spent by the fund on vodka since July, 1974, was £1,985,55. Of this sum £1,500 was spent on Russian vodka. The rest was on vodka produced in the United Kingdom.

The fund had no plans at present to buy Russian vodka but if it required vodka would buy vodka produced in the United Kingdom.

Mr Channon (South-West Norfolk, C)—

The right thing is for us to give

to the Russian vodka and hope that other people will contribute.

Since we are about to see the independence of Rhodesia this is not an occasion for nigging but congratulating the new country and wishing it well in future.

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Mr Channon (South-West Norfolk, C)—

The right thing is for us to give

to the Russian vodka and hope

J. V. 15/4/80

You need the use of an estate car but you've always preferred driving a true Mercedes-Benz.

Yet how can all the benefits of one possibly be combined with all the qualities of the other?

Until recently, this would have seemed a contradiction in terms.

However, last year, Mercedes-Benz introduced their T Series.

Their first range of estate cars.

And, as motoring correspondents and owners have discovered, they're built to exactly the same standards as all cars from Mercedes-Benz.

Those same standards of balanced performance, easy handling and reliability, with the safety and comfort that you've come to expect from Mercedes-Benz.

So when it comes to driving a T Series, you'll find it difficult to remember that you're driving an estate car at all.

Whether you're using it as an estate or not, to you and your passengers the ride

will be the same as in the equivalent saloon.

Smooth, comfortable and effortless. Because the Mercedes-Benz estate behaves as precisely, sure-footedly and easily as every other Mercedes-Benz.

One particular reason for this is the self-levelling device.

An hydraulic sensor that constantly monitors the overall load being carried and then automatically adjusts the suspension accordingly.

You'll also discover that just as much care has gone into the design of the load-carrying space itself.

The standard area is 1.48 metres wide by 1.23 long.

Which should be large enough to cope with any transporting problems.

If not, then this area can be lengthened to 1.78 metres by an easy adjustment of the rear seat.

If you take this seat out completely, then you have a capacity of 2.03 metres.

As for getting loads in and out, another discovery you'll make is that the rear door has been very cleverly balanced.

Simply to make opening easier and closing quieter.

The weight your T Series can carry is a generous 620 kilogrammes.

Your choice of power units ranges from a 2.4 litre diesel through to the 2.5 and 2.8 litre petrol-engined models.

The 240TD diesel is a particularly economical vehicle.

The 250T is a very lively six cylinder petrol-engined model.

And the fastest is the 280TE with fuel injection.

Any one of which is everything you want from an estate car, everything you'd expect from Mercedes-Benz.



Mercedes-Benz



THE ESTATE CAR FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD PREFER A MERCEDES-BENZ.

Edward Mortimer on how 50 American hostages in Tehran are obscuring the real issues

Iran: suspicious of the West and divided over the Soviet Union

One of the many unhappy consequences of the crisis over the American hostages in Tehran is that it makes it difficult for western opinion to take an informed interest in what is going on in Iran generally. Because we find it easier to identify with, or perhaps because we feel a responsibility for, the fate of those 50 people, we tend to focus on them rather than on what is happening to 35 million Iranians who are still thrashing around in one of the greatest political upheavals of their history.

No doubt it is natural that this should be so, but that approach has a number of disadvantages. It tends to confirm many Iranians in their view that our attitude to them is racist. Since we seem to be more interested in the welfare of 50 white people who, so their captors insist, are well fed, clothed and cared for and in no danger so long as no imprudent attempt is made to rescue them, than in the much greater sufferings and dangers to which the Iranian people as a whole have been and are exposed. It may also prevent us from reaching the right conclusions about the hostage issue itself, since that issue is clearly inextricably bound up with the power struggles

within the revolutionary leadership.

But even if it does not (and in a case like this there is something to be said for insisting on a few straightforward principles rather than letting oneself be drawn into the quicksand of revolutionary politics), it is still in danger of blinding us to what else is at stake besides the lives and liberties of the hostages. Even if the hostages were freed tomorrow we could hardly be indifferent to the future of Iran.

Indeed it is clear that, at least some of those responsible for keeping the hostages in captivity, that very fact is an important part of their motivation. Precisely because they know that Iran is of great importance to the West they are intensely suspicious of any form of western involvement with Iran, believing that such involvement can only be "imperialistic". That of course is broadly the communist view, and some western observers believe that the Islamic students following the line of the Imam "may actually have been infiltrated by the communist Tudeh party (part of the masses).

Certainly the Tudeh is one

of the groups giving them

more or less unconditional support, and it openly rejoices in

the complete break with the United States that they have brought about. But it is far from being alone in that.

Since the fall of the Bazaar government last November there has been a virtual consensus among all the groups competing for power—a consensus very strongly endorsed by Imam Khomeini himself and therefore in effect binding on whoever claims to be a supporter of the revolution—that any form of relationship with the United States in the foreseeable future is bound to be unhealthy. Iran is held to be suffering from so deadly an overdose of American influence that a prolonged period of total abstinence can possibly cure her of the addiction.

Where there is disagreement within the present revolution ary movement is not about relations with the United States but, on one side, about attitudes to the Soviet Union and on the other about the possible role of Europe and Japan. The issue of the Soviet Union divided right from left, as one would expect, although on neither side of the division is there complete identity of

views. Broadly, the view held by President Bani-Sadr and his supporters, and also by the

Islamic Republic Party (IRP), which seems likely to dominate the new parliament, is that there is nothing to choose between the superpowers. Both are equally evil, equally "imperialistic" and therefore the influence of both should be resisted with equal vigour. This view has received increasingly clear endorsement in the last month or so from the Imam, with the result that those who dissent from it are being forced on the defensive.

Among the dissenters the Tudeh, which is unconditionally pro-Soviet, is probably the least important. It remains discredited by its long record of favouring Soviet state interests where these clashed with those of Iranian national liberation, from the 1940s onwards. It took no significant part in the revolution and has been trying to make up for this by proclaiming its unconditional support for the Imam and the religious leadership even when, as happened last summer, the latter has clamped down heavily on the left.

Generally speaking this has

only brought it into greater contempt, although its leader, Mr Nuredin Kianuri, claims a

modest success in increasing the party's vote in Tehran from 40,000 last summer to

nearly 60,000 in the first ballot of the parliamentary election in March. Even so, this is only 3 per cent of the electorate.

More serious left-wing forces, in the view of virtually all observers, are the two guerrilla movements—the People's Fedayin (Marxist-Leninist) and the People's Mojahedin (Muslim progressive).

But neither regards Soviet imperialism as a danger to Iran comparable to that of the United States, and both consider the anti-Soviet campaign over Afghanistan to be an American device for distracting Muslim peoples from their real enemy and bolstering reactionary pro-western regimes.

The issue of Europe and Japan arises principally within the "right" according to the above classification. There is a polemic about it between President Bani-Sadr and the IRP. President Bani-Sadr holds that Europe and Japan can be encouraged to adopt a more independent line from the United States and to provide the technical expertise and capital goods which Iran and other developing countries need if they are to achieve economic independence.

It was partly for this reason that he favoured a soft line on the hostages, since on that issue

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ILL ON THE BRINK

It must be tired beyond of hearing that British is reached the end of it, at it is facing its last, the end of the car industry is at the company's net and the Transport and Workers' Union is to be embarked on ventures that can only an outcome. If Sir Edwards and his team are their most recent in imposing a wage unilaterally would smoothly, they have avoided.

Initial reaction was acquiescent. Since, he TGWU gave official backing, if the resistance has yesterday one in five of Leyland's work force strike and production of halted. It is difficult where the area of acceptable compromise. Having underlined that the existing pay is a final offer by imposing it even ion agreement, the could find it difficult of losing all credit entered into further. By making the official, the Transport has made it apparently for a settlement to be of the present terms. A time of industrial pokide dangerous enough company, no matter how

substantially based. In the case of British Leyland everybody concerned must know that we are watching what could well be the last act in the long demise of this country as the base for at least one major British owned car producer. It is a world market in which, like steel, there is substantial overcapacity. It would be quite possible to wake up one day to discover that like British motor-cycles, an entire industry had disappeared.

The Edwards team at British Leyland appear to understand quite clearly the rate of change and the speed of increased performance required to avoid this fate. It is clear that parts of the trade union movement involved in the car industry understand the same industrial reality. No one should underestimate the scale of the problems, economic, industrial and human, that are involved in such a change in long established patterns of behaviour. If the exercise is to succeed, it requires changes in the approach and attitude of management every bit as radical and every bit as difficult as those required of the unions. The recent history of the motor-car industry holds out no comforting expectation that such change can be achieved in time to avert the otherwise inevitable outcome.

There can now, however, be no question that a major immediate obstacle is the leadership, or rather lack of leadership, in the upper reaches of the Transport and General Workers'

ONE SCHOLAR TO ANOTHER

or thinks of the rich of Czech scholarship to the founding of Charles University in comes quite extrare scandalous that Lukas now has a government of all College, Oxford, using Aristotle in a private anything could befend the fear and poverty which now ruling apparatus of any country. Dr Kenny enaging in anything that could be regarded as activity. Nor was he obreaking any law. He was responding as to an invitation from a scholar who happens to be entirely political from the official education of his country. Czech officials make points that he is infringeing by applying for a visa with he was in to lecture; that he is attending a meeting which, to Czechoslovak required but did not have permission; and that visitors should respect of course they visit, to the first point is was not delivering a for-

laws of South Africa, and some of the craver restrictions on human liberty imposed by communist regimes, especially in places such as Czechoslovakia where they are alien to the country's traditions and normal expectations.

There is also another court of appeal. During the long negotiations that led up to the Helsinki agreement of 1975 the communist governments made great efforts to introduce language that would reflect all cultural and academic exchanges to those officially approved. They failed, and the agreement which they signed obliges them "to facilitate, between organizations, institutions and persons engaged in education and science, the further development of exchanges of knowledge and experience as well as contacts..." Dr Tom of Prague and Dr Kenny of Oxford are both highly respected scholars. They met and talked about their subject. Nothing could be more wholly within the letter and the spirit of the Helsinki agreement. What annoyed the Czechoslovak authorities had nothing to do with visas or regulations on assemblies. Their annoyance derives from their fear that their system cannot survive any unauthorized exercise of the human spirit.

The third point is largely irrelevant because Dr Kenny and all the other western academics who have trodden the same path (commendably there have been a fair number) do not appear to have broken Czechoslovak laws. However, it may be worth pointing out that although it is normally both prudent and right to respect the laws of foreign countries there must occasionally be exceptions when these laws reach a certain level of generally recognized iniquity. The category is not definable in general terms but must surely include Nazi Germany's racial laws, the racial

DENT REVELS NOW ARE ENDED

ational Union of Students its confidence, is there in Irish life today confidence may be sought? Their annual meeting of union, meeting when affairs are at a yesterday elected a new to reassure that they had a coauthor to the country's and should "start believing themselves again". It is to feel compassion at of that once so brash impudent crowd so crestfallen also, not to feel him, abused by the self-gust of Mr Aaron-analytic, as well as by the truth that students today essentially demoralised at that significance it put after so many of the union have the rhetoric of Lenin or the latest (also comical) imitating that of

It has, in fact, come of a most exceptional few years only ten years ago a series of constitutional changes removed a previous ban on discussion of non-national topics at the annual meet. Then suddenly the anti-came (in their own and a surprising extent, of the media as well) messages, with opinions fulminating and reports on political issues of all

kinds, from women's lib to Vietnam. The NUS had almost missed the boat: 1968 was the great year of glory for students round the world, and the wave began to decline almost as soon as it had arisen.

After a brief flirtation with the more hare-brained tendencies of the left, the union's leaders became gradually more pragmatic (while always respecting the conventions of radical socialism). Its indefensibly eccentric financial arrangements meanwhile became less able to sustain large "rent-a-crowd" campaigns on general political issues. A few universities have disaffiliated from the union, and many more have considered doing so, in impatience at its political posturing, which is often unrepresentative of actual student opinion (its procedures for electing conference delegates often being in the worst tradition of industrial trade unionism).

This year, the executive has acknowledged the truth and prepared a plan for restricting the union's campaigning activities to matters directly connected with student affairs. This does not indicate a complete return to the subfusc of the early sixties. Wider issues will still be debated at conference, the irresponsibilities of political in-fighting will not be abandoned, and the student voice will still be heard, if only to pursue their studies as they always have done, and to hope that their collective reputation suffers no contagion from the exploits of their counterparts in Tehran.

It was never quite clear why the opinions of students should suddenly have come to seem as important as they did for many in the sixties. The upsurge of 1968 found an intellectual pretext in the work of Herbert Marcuse, who despairingly observed that prosperity was dissolving the working-class revolutionary impulses essential to the Marxist scheme of things. He fleetingly hoped that, among students, not yet tempted by the material blandishments of capitalism, an uncorrupted revolutionary spirit might yet be found. The evidence is that most students, and more than ever today, take a relatively hardened view of their prospects in society as it is.

Marcuse himself soon became dubious about "pubertal revolt" and his doubts were shared by the wider public. The image of students suffered severely. The effects of these suspicions on the level of state provision for higher education, and on local authority decisions about discretionary grants, are hard to measure but must have been significant. It will take some time for the students to live down the image created by a minority. But most will be ready enough to accept that (as the NUS plan puts it) the salad days are past, to pursue their studies as they always have done, and to hope that their collective reputation suffers no contagion from the exploits of their counterparts in Tehran.

Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to be held in Caracas later this year. Unilateral action by the United Kingdom carried with it the danger of serious damage to our diplomatic and trading links with the countries of the Middle East, whereas in Caracas we are likely to obtain a wide measure of international recognition for our concern for the well-being of British business men. In this country we need to have a better understanding of the international organisations and channels available for cooperation in the development of criminal legislation, judicial proceedings and other forms of social control in the prevention of crime. Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS POLAND, Chairman, International Prisoners Aid Association (UK), Bryan's Garage, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, April 10.

Those legally imprisoned have internationally recognized rights laid down in the United Nations "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners" and at the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Toronto, September 1975, judicial and sentencing procedures were discussed, extensive reports were agreed and issued to participating nations. During the course of the Congress the Foward League, the International Council for Alcohol and Addiction and the International Prisoners Aid Association held a joint meeting to discuss the subject "Transfer of sentence to home country". In this limited area some progress has been made during the past five years, but more important is the need for our government to give their full support to international initiatives of this kind. An opportunity to pursue the ends of international justice and accord exists at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of

Ulster and the Union

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative) Sir, If, as Mr Brian Anson argues (April 11), the Union was founded on coercion, it was the Protestant Ascendancy Parliament in Dublin that was coerced. The Catholic hierarchy (unlike the Orange Order) was for the Union.

But however we read history, the Union, as you say so well in your editorial (April 9), rests on the democratic will of the Northern Ireland people. That will has been and can be tested not only in elections but in the decennial Border Poll which guarantees the right of self-determination.

JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON, House of Commons, April 14.

From Mr R. A. Bruce

Sir, As you rightly remark (April 9) that Government of the Irish Republic refuses to admit the right of self-determination to the people of Northern Ireland, on the ground that the only proper constituency for such an exercise would embrace all who live in the island of Ireland. In other words, the 11 million inhabitants of Northern Ireland would have their destiny decided, not by themselves, but by the preponderant voting power of the three million inhabitants of the Republic. This is of course as it should be, but the new method of settling territorial disputes (the Paddy Principle) should not be confined to Ireland alone: as Joxer Daly so wisely observed, the whole world is in a state of chasms.

The results would be spectacular and immediate. The Spanish claim of Gibraltar, for example, could be decided by the votes of the combined populations of Spain (40 million) and of Gibraltar (30,000). Similarly, the Mexican claim to New Mexico, a territory brutally torn from its motherland by the bloody hand of American imperialism, would be decided by the combined votes of 60 million Mexicans and two million New Mexicans. (Further referendums would follow in Texas, California, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada—all of them former Mexican territories.)

It is a great pity that the Paddy Principle had not yet been abominated when the Irish Home Rule Bill was passed in 1911. The British Government would have saved itself, and Ireland, a great deal of trouble if it had submitted the question of Irish independence to the verdict of all the inhabitants of the then United Kingdom. The Sinn Feiners of that day would naturally have resigned themselves to accepting the verdict, almost certainly adverse, of their fellow-citizens. Like Hell they would? Yours faithfully,

R. A. BRUCE, 118 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen, April 10.

Violent youth

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, David Holbrook (April 11) supplies his "general criticism of 'cultural barbarism' derived from the 'pseudo-evolution of the seventies'" and defended by "our intellectuals" to the particular example of "a new feature" which he says has appeared "in our life" "youthful riot" and he concludes that "the political implications are extremely grave".

The implications of his accusation are certainly extremely grave—or would be, if it were supported by some evidence. But is there any fact, rather than fantasy, which suggests that the recent events on the London Underground or in Bristol or Scarborough have been influenced by the exploitation of violence and sex in the media or by the practice of drug-taking or prostitution? Is there any reason to look further than the common factors of cultural deprivation, educational failure, racial discrimination, and social alienation for the occasional eruption of small groups of young men? And is youthful riot either a new feature in our life? Features of "permisive" Western societies?

Until these questions are answered, sweeping allegations about "a new mental sickness" without any serious evidence may be seen as grave intellectual irresponsibility.

Yours etc,

NICOLAS WALTER, Rationalist Press Association, 88 Islington High Street, N1. April 11.

A Man Called Intrepid

From Miss Jean Overton Fuller

Sir, I am thankful that Colonel Buckmaster (April 9) has made a protest through your columns against the screening by ITV of the tragedy "A Man Called Intrepid". It was, of course, Colonel Buckmaster who was the commanding officer of No 111 (Intrepid) King's G.C. "Madeleine" and she was no time sent to Canada for training. She was shown as being arrested in France by the Gestapo whilst transmitting a warning concerning the impending raid on Coventry, which was on November 14, 1940. It was on November 19, 1940, that she enlisted in the WAAF and was posted to Harrogate (four days after her supposed arrest) and was subsequently enrolled in the FANY.

After a training, which was wholly in the United Kingdom she was landed in France on June 16, 1943, and her arrest, following adventures which in no way resembled those shown on the screen, was not until October 13, 1943. Neither she ever, for one single moment, cooperated in transmissions, as shown, while under Gestapo control. This I was personally assured by the German officer who captured her, and who interrogated her for over a month at German Security HQ, 24 Ave Foch, Paris.

This fictionalization and distortion of the lives of real people is surely in the worst possible taste.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JEAN OVERTON FULLER,

5 Church Lane,

Wymington,

Rushden,

Northamptonshire.

April 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allies' response to Carter plea

From Sir Robert Kirkwood

Sir, The United States came to our aid in two wars, and saved half of Europe for democracy in the second. Without American support we should eventually share the fate of Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

That President Carter has "chosen the wrong issue" (your words) is beside the point. All that matters is that the Russians should be convinced that they are up against a united Western alliance, should they try any tricks.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT KIRKWOOD,

Three Kings,

Sandwich,

Kent.

April 14.

From Mr Colin McMillan

Sir, Mr Emery at the White House on Saturday asked the President whether his policy would not in fact drive Iran into the arms of the Soviet Union. Unhappily the President did not answer the question or even attempt to.

Surely the scenario is horribly clear: American threats of military/ naval action, actual United States intervention leading to the Iranian extremists inviting the Soviet Union to come to their aid, the Soviet forces even now poised on the Afghan-Iranian border in readiness for this (planet?) event; thus the loss of Iran to the free world with scores of Americans fired in anger.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN McMILLAN,

12 Park Avenue, NW1.

April 14.

From Professor Christopher Thorne

Sir, In your issue of April 12, Fred Emery reports that President Carter "is said to be increasingly conscious of a parallel between Afghanistan and Hitler's march into the Rhineland". We also learn that the President is seeking guidance from the relevant chapters of Churchill's *Gathering Storm* where that episode of 1936 is concerned.

Without embarking upon a lengthy historical analysis, could one simply make the points (a) that it is far from proven, to say the

President (and the rest of us) a better service if he took along to the White House another book: Professor Ernest May's admirable little study: "Lessons of the Past". Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER THORNE,

Professor of International Relations,

University of Sussex,

As from Netherlands Institute for

Advanced Study,

Meiboomlaan 1,

Wassenaar,

The Netherlands.

April 14.

From Colonel I. R. Burrows

Sir, President Carter has asked this country to join in pressure on Iran. Should not our Government ask him whether, in return, he would guarantee to stop all forms of aid from United States citizens to the IRA and other terrorists in Ireland?

Yours faithfully,

IAN BURROWS,

Dene Cottage,

Wey Road,

Weybridge,

Surrey.

April 14.

From Professor George Mosse

Sir, May I express regret about the attacks against the Wiener Library which seem to me wholly undeserved.

In its 40 years in London the Wiener Library has not been overwhelmed by public and private support.

In most other countries such an important institution would have received sufficient help locally.

The Wiener Library did not

I was intimately associated with the negotiations between the Wiener Library and the University of Reading, and I can assure Professor Sebott (April 12) that there was no plot. The arrangement which was suggested did not make adequate provision for the funding of the Wiener Library. In these circumstances I feel I could not accept the Chair which was to be established at Reading University.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE MOSSE,

The Wiener Library,

41 Devonshire Street, W1.

April 14.

Reaction to 'Death of a Princess'

From Mr Antony Thomas

Sir, Sir Philip de Zulver's letter in The Times today (April 15), gives me a chance to answer the two most serious charges levelled against the film *Death of a Princess* by the Saudi Arabian authorities and their representatives. Sir Philip asserts that the film was "deeply distressing to the Muslim world". The official Saudi Arabian statement went further, describing the programme as "an unprincipled attack against the religion of Islam".

<p



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 15: The Earl of Westmorland (Master of the Horse) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Hon Anthony Berry, MP (Vice-Chamberlain of the Household) returned in audience by The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Commons to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Lady Carrington, His Excellency the Ambassador of Norway and Mrs Gander, the Lord and Lady Zuckerman, the Hon William Douglas-Home and the Baroness Dacre and Sir David and Lady Orr have arrived at Windsor Castle.

The Prince of Wales attended by the Hon Edward Adeane, the Hon Michael Ashe, Mr Michael Shear, left, Heathrow Airport—London this evening in a Royal Air Force VC10 aircraft to represent The Queen at the Independence Celebrations of Zimbabwe.

By command of Her Majesty, the Lord Lyell (Lord in Waiting) was present and bade farewell to His Royal Highness on behalf of The Queen.

Mr Douglas Malcolm (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mr Michael King (Director, Heathrow Airport—London) took leave of The Prince of Wales upon His Royal Highness's departure.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 15: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the Royal Opera, this evening attended a performance of La Traviata at Sadler's Wells Theatre, EC1.

Captain Mark Bullough in attendance.

Lady de Hoghton gave birth to a son in London on April 11.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Earl of Halifax will be held at 11.30 am on Wednesday, April 23, in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

Marriages

Mr C. E. S. Atkins and Miss C. M. Hemsley The marriage took place at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Langham, Rutland, on Saturday, April 11, between Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, only son of Mr. Humphrey Atkins, MP, and Mrs. Atkins, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hemsley. The Rev W. A. Buckley officiated.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. R. Woodruff and the Hon Mrs A. E. Elphinstone

The marriage took place on April 14 in the Lady Chapel, Guildford Cathedral, between Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. R. Woodruff of Arthwick, Lancashire, and the Hon Mrs Andrew Elphinstone, widow of the Rev Andrew Elphinstone, of Maryland, Worlestone, Surrey, The Very Rev A. C. Bridge, Dean of Guildford, officiated.

The position of Lord Chief Justice was absolutely crucial to the administration of justice in this country. His Lordship greatly looked forward to a close and productive period of cooperation between the two offices. The Lord Chancellor's Office. They had a daunting task before them in which they would need all the assistance they could receive from all the members of the judiciary and both branches of the practice of law.

The Lord Chief Justice, which was by far the most expeditious and the most incorrupt in the world, demanded above all things an absence of delay if it was to achieve its full efficiency.

Under systems which depended for their proper function on an inquisitorial judiciary, our rules of evidence were far from being satisfied with the speed of justice which had been committed for trial.

And on the other hand, pressure on the Crown Court had led to unacceptable delays in the Divisional Court, which in recent years had become among the most

Forthcoming marriages

Capt S. J. D. Bush, RM and Miss A. J. Paleret.

The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush, of Beckstead House, Colemore, Hampshire, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr A. M. Beattie of 35 Redcliffe Road, London, SW10, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Paleret.

Mr C. M. A. Brett and Miss A. M. C. F. Oliveira The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Brett of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Ana Maria, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. G. F. de Oliveira, of Coimbra, Portugal.

Mr C. D. Greenwood and Miss A. J. Tease The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Greenwood, of Frensham, Surrey, and Anna, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J. L. Tease, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A. N. McLeod and Miss C. Russell The engagement is announced between Alastair, Neil, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. B. McLeod of Helens, Lancashire, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. M. Russell, of London, NW1.

Mr J. L. Pitcher and Miss J. G. Gifford The engagement is announced between James Lethington, youngest son of the late Mr Leighton Pitcher and Mrs Barbara Gifford-Smith, of the Dower House, Sonning, Berkshire, and Anna, elder daughter of Signor and Signora Luigi Gifford, of Olgiate Comasco, Italy.

Mr F. E. Sydney-Smith and Miss F. S. Wilkinson The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr R. T. Sydney-Smith, of Corbridge, Guernsey, and Mrs Anne Rainey, of Villemomble, France, and Sophie, daughter of Major and Mrs Humphrey Wilkinson, of Newton Peveril, Cottage, Sturminster Marshall, Dorset.

Mr J. E. R. Trahan and Miss J. M. Sweet The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs R. Trahan, of Ivybridge, Devon, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Sweet, of Tavistock, Devon.

Mr N. J. Whittle and Miss K. F. Jackson The engagement is announced between Nicholas, John, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. G. Whittle of Rosecrance, Gwent, and Rosemary, daughter of Dr and Mrs G. Jackson, of Stagrove House Farm, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Latest appointments

Mr Michael Kerr, solicitor to the Department of Trade and Industry, has been appointed Procurator General. The Lord Commissioners of the Treasury propose to appoint him Treasury Solicitor.

Mr Trevor Hughes has been appointed Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Office.

Mr Charles Atkins, only son of Mr Humphrey Atkins, MP, and Mrs Atkins, and Miss Clare Hemsley, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Hemsley. The Rev W. A. Buckley officiated.

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Regulations 26(3) and (4) provide for compensation and rest days in the event when a member is required to work on a day which is a rostered rest day.

Regulation 26(5)(c) provides that "reference to a rostered rest day to be construed as a reference to a day worked according to the roster of rest days" was to have been a rest day for the member concerned and for the purpose of determining what would have been such a day any alteration in the roster made shall be ignored.

And on the other hand, pressure on the Crown Court had led to unacceptable delays in the Divisional Court, which in recent years had become among the most

important functions of the Queen's Bench Division.

Indeed, the reduction of delays in the Divisional Court list might well prove the task deserving the highest priority as well as among the problems which the Lord Chief Justice would have to face.

Lord Lane carried with him to the discharge of his new responsibilities not only the good will of every member of the legal profession, but also the high regard which he had earned by years of experience on the Bench, and a deserved reputation for determination, common sense and industry, and a wide and profound knowledge of our law and practice. His double rôle as Master of the Rolls and the Master of the Rolls' Office, and his brief period of service as a magistrate for defendants, placed magistrates and the courts in an unfair dilemma in considering the choice between bail and custody, and in bail cases in the risk of repeated offences by persons a proportion of whom statistically had to prove guilty of the crimes for which they had been committed for trial.

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important functions of the Queen's Bench Division.

In saying farewell to Lord Widdry Sir Michael had referred to the help needed to discharge the many burdens and speaking for the whole profession he hoped that help would be forthcoming to Lord Lane in every way possible.

The whole legal profession greeted him with complete and wholehearted confidence that the historic standards of integrity, skill and impartiality maintained by his former colleagues would be cherished by him and that under his leadership those standards would be maintained by all those on whose behalf Sir Michael was speaking.

Solicitors: Russell, Jones & Walker; Sharp, Pritchard & Co.

Mystery of rare old maps in sale

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

Mystery surrounded a very rare group of maps and atlases offered for sale at Sotheby's yesterday. A special catalogue presenting only five lots had been prepared, but no indication was given of where they came from.

Many dealers were worried because items of this quality are not normally allowed out of Italy, and they had to be prepared to bid. That led to lavish prices. The main New York dealer, John Fleming, had not even come to London for the sale. "If the background turned out wrong one could find oneself in trouble."

An unrecorded and unpublished sixteenth-century atlas which had belonged to the great Doric family of Gavots and contained 104 maps and 100 plates was offered as "the property of North Ridolfi" and was attributed to him. The Ridolfi was an important Florentine merchant family: the book probably belonged to the family archive.

But who made the discovery of this very rare chart in the binding, when they made it, and

where was it made? The story would have some significance to the history of map making and collecting. The map was bought by N. Israel, a specialist map dealer from Amsterdam, for £26,000 (estimate, £20,000-£40,000).

The other mysterious item, possibly the most expensive, was a sixteenth-century chart of the Mediterranean dating from about 1320. Portolan charts were made by and for mariners to guide them around the seas and coasts; this one is attributed to Perino Verosio and is thought to have been made within about a dozen years of the oldest surviving portolan chart.

Sotheby's explained that it had been used as a map paper in making a binding for a book some time in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. The chart was recovered from the binding, which was titled "E. Ridolfi con Diversi atl." The Ridolfi was an important Florentine merchant family: the book probably belonged to the family archive.

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When it went for £40,000 those attending the sale assumed that it was unsold. However, Sotheby's announced that it had been bought by an English private collector.

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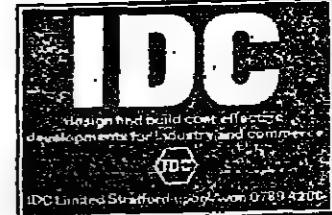
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



markets
x 437.8 down 0.4
s 66.51 down 0.45

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down 165 pts
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9.9 up 0.7

down \$27

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Euro S 17.5 to 17.3

BRIEF

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Portland rights
Portland Cement is
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rights issue pitched at
mandal Editor, page 19

Central bankers tighten surveillance system on fears of greater loan risks

From Peter Norman
Basle, April 15

The central banks of the leading western industrial countries have, warning today that individual banks and the international banking system could be exposed to greater risks in the future because of the strong growth of international bank lending in recent years.

In a communiqué issued by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the governors of the central banks of the Group of Ten countries and Switzerland said they had decided to strengthen regular and systematic monitoring of international banking developments.

A standing committee on Euromarkets will consider the international banking statistics compiled by the BIS together with other relevant information and report to the governors at least twice a year and more frequently if necessary.

The governors said these arrangements for closer surveillance could provide a framework for intensifying cooperation on monetary policy between the Group of Ten countries and Switzerland.

But the communiqué, which follows more than a year's study of the Euromarkets by central bank experts, did not controversially propose put forward by the United States Federal Reserve Board for a minimum

reserve requirement on the international markets to limit their growth.

The absence of a reference to this point suggests that moments are still a matter of dispute among central banks.

The hopes expressed by some European central bankers that the issue could be quietly buried could prove to be false.

It is an unusual event for the West's central bankers to issue a public statement after a meeting in Basle, so today's communiqué is probably of greater significance than its rather cautious phrasing might suggest.

The bankers are undoubtedly worried about the growth of international bank lending, which they note has advanced at an annual rate of 25 per cent in recent years—and about the problem of recycling the Opec surpluses, which have been estimated at \$120,000m (£54,000m) this year alone.

In what is an oblique reference to the American proposals to impose minimum reserve requirements on the Euromarkets, the bankers observed that differences in competitive conditions between domestic and international banking caused by official regulations and policies stimulate the growth of international bank lending.

They said that they placed a high priority on bringing into full effect initiatives already taken by the Cooke Committee at the BIS for supervising banks' international business

on a consolidated basis, improving the assessment of country risks and developing more comprehensive and consistent data for monitoring the structure of banks' lending and borrowing.

This latter point, referred to in the communiqué as a problem of "internationalization", reflects the central bankers' concern that international banks may be borrowing Opec funds on a short-term basis and lending long-term.

By issuing the communiqué, the general bankers are hoping to infuse the world's international bankers with an awareness of the need for prudence.

But they are apparently unwilling to speculate in public on what might happen if the international banking system cannot cope with the Opec surpluses, which have been

estimated at \$120,000m (£54,000m) this year alone.

In what is an oblique reference to the American proposals to impose minimum reserve requirements on the Euromarkets, the bankers observed that differences in competitive conditions between domestic and international banking caused by official regulations and policies stimulate the growth of international bank lending.

These differences can therefore pose difficulties for domestic monetary policy making in some countries.

US officials split over silver curbs

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 15

The pressing financial problems of Turkey were settled here today when 15 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries plus the European Economic Community agreed on a loan package worth \$1,160m (£527m). Britain's contribution to the total is to be \$33m, while Japan is among the major contributors with \$100m (£4.8m).

Mr David Gardner, a member of the four-man Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the key government body in charge of regulating futures markets, told a Congressional committee today that "The silver phenomenon was free enterprise at its finest hour. It demonstrated that the system works."

Mr James Stone, the chairman of the commission, said there could be arguments for increased regulation. Consideration should be given to enforcing limits on the number of commodity contracts a speculator could hold.

The OECD loan will be in addition to the assistance of about \$200m already granted to Turkey by the International Monetary Fund, to the various World Bank loans totalling \$550m and to the European Investment Bank agreement on a financial protocol worth about \$400m.

Turkey was expecting further help from the oil producing states. Mr Turgut Ozal, the chief Turkish economic negotiator, said today: "Saudi Arabia

is believed to be negotiating a \$600m loan, while further help is likely from the United Arab Emirates.

This help was being provided, Mr Ozal said, with no strings attached.

The OECD says that it is satisfied with the economic policies of the Turkish government. The aim is to spend the loan aid on reorganized programmes.

Mr Van Lennep said that Japan had not been an unwilling contributor to the loan, despite previous reports to the contrary. The slowness by Japan in reaching agreement was purely caused by the normal Japanese decision-making processes.

Mr Ozal said that he had been surprised by the fact that Japan had decided to contribute \$100m rather than the \$80m that Turkey had expected.

The main contributors to the total loan are the United States and West Germany, both of whom are putting up \$295m. Italy is contributing \$115m and France, like Japan and the EEC, is putting up \$100m.

The other contributor is Switzerland (\$37m). The Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand joined in the talks, but did not contribute in the longer term, from the Middle East.

Mr Ozal said that there was therefore a clear possibility that producers of ethylene and other products would respond by cutting prices. In the coming months the industry had to show a sense of discipline.

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Imported trucks and vans win 25pc of UK market

By Edward Townsend

Foreign trucks and vans captured almost a quarter of the United Kingdom market last month at a time when total sales rose by nearly six per cent.

The major British and foreign commercial vehicle manufacturers are planning for big increases in market penetration next year despite a predicted fall in the number of registrations. In the first three months, total sales were 77,906, nine per cent higher than a year earlier.

Ford, the market leader, increased its share from 25.6 per cent to 34.3 per cent.

More figures released yesterday show that sales of mopeds and scooters doubled and motor cycle sales rose by 40 per cent in the first quarter.

The motor cycle industry is forecasting that 1980 will be its best year ever, overtaking the previous record of 331,000 sales in 1979. Mopeds alone are set to achieve a record of 100,000 sales.

Societies disappointed by £200m March receipts

By Margaret Stone

Building society net receipts are still well below the unofficial target required to meet current demand for home loans.

Figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association show net receipts for March of only £200m—a virtually unchanged sum on February's £199m—against estimates of around £400m being needed to meet home loan demand.

Although money is now returning to societies, the rate of net inflow remains unchanged at around £200m a month, and there is little optimism that any real improvement will be seen within the next couple of months.

The March figures are disappointing. February's low level of net receipts was accounted for by the introduction of the very successful 19th issue of National Savings Certificates.

It had been hoped that by March the savings market would have returned to normal, indeed it did during the first two weeks of the month. However, the late pre-Budget publicity for short-term income

bonds (which as predicted, came under fire in the Budget) meant that building society receipts almost dried up in the second half of the month.

Although money is now returning to societies, the rate of net inflow remains unchanged at around £200m a month, and there is little optimism that any real improvement will be seen within the next couple of months.

The situation does not cry out for urgent action to raise the interest rates paid to investors, but there is little leeway for the societies to extend or alter their lending programmes.

During March £109m was lent to housebuyers and a further £813m promised. Although funds are not coming in at a record rate, interest payments by existing borrowers now account for an extra £250m a month.

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first two weeks of the month.



Media get a look at the small car on which BL's hopes for the 1980s rest

Secrets of the Mini Metro unveiled

In an unprecedented break with established international motor industry practice, BL yesterday lifted the security curtain surrounding the £285m Mini Metro, which is still six months away from its official launch at the British Motor Show in October.

The media were taken on a conducted tour of the new production facilities at Longbridge which includes some of the most advanced technology in Europe. Journalists saw the previously secret Metro at most stages of manufacture.

The unexpected move will be seen in some circles as an attempt to divert attention from the effects of the official strike by Transport Union members against management's imposition of its controversial pay and conditions package.

This was denied by senior executives.

They insisted that security had been lifted in response to tremendous pressure from the media and the need to counter comment about the car itself and progress on working up the new plant.

Outwardly the Metro does not appear to differ significantly from established rivals such as Ford's Fiesta, Volkswagen's Golf and Fiat's 127. It is a two door hatchback slightly smaller than the competition, but claimed to offer up to 25 per cent more interior space.

Its main impact is expected to be in its de-luxe equipment and low running costs. Powered by a redesigned version of the already economical, long stroke "A" series engine used in the old mini, Allegro and some Marinas, it is said to set re-

markable miles per gallon standards for its class.

More than £30m has been spent on revamping the engine plant at Longbridge.

Mr Mark Snowdon, director of product planning at Austin Morris, said the project was so far ahead of target that the Metro could be launched before October. It had been deliberately held back, however, to ensure that nothing was left to chance. "We cannot afford to launch a car which is not absolutely right from the start. BL's position is just too sensitive for that," he said.

The new 750,000 square feet body plant will produce a Metro body every 42 seconds from each of two lines. It has a total capacity of 6,500 a week—over 300,000 a year—but will initially operate at about half this.

It requires only one third of the labour employed at previous BL body plants.

Mr Harold Musgrave, managing director of Austin Morris, said the speed of the body build was not a subject for negotiation with the unions. It had already been established by the type of machinery involved and accepted by a joint union-management committee which had discussed every stage of the project for the past three and a half years.

He also revealed that contrary to all previous reports, management had already negotiated an agreement with the five unions involved and skilled maintenance work. It provides for less rigid demarcation boundaries between trades. Manning levels and line speed have still

to be agreed, however, for the final assembly tracks.

The first depressing note was introduced by Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL Cars. He said the Metro could still not be put into profitable operation until the unions accepted the 92 page document detailing new working practices.

Attention yesterday was largely focused on the huge automatic multi-weld machines and the 28 robots which will make BL the largest operator of welding robots in Britain.

The break with established practice which will have the biggest impact on the new car as delivered to the motorist is a new 65,000 square feet final inspection and rectification shop.

Previously all cars left the assembly line ready for despatch to dealers. They will now go from assembly to the new shop which includes a miniature paint plant. The additional facility, said to be the first of its type in Europe, cost only £5m, but its two rectification tracks will be expected to make a considerable impact on sales with improved quality of finish.

BL claims that not only will it be comparable in Europe, but its quality—for so long a weakness—will set standards which rivals will be hard pushed to meet.

In the final analysis, however, everything depends on overcoming union opposition to much-needed reform of 30-year-old working practices.

Clifford Webb

Offshore banking proposed for Tokyo

A leading Japanese banker has proposed an offshore banking centre in Tokyo to encourage foreign banks to expand Japanese operations and help Japanese banks increase overseas investments.

Mr Takashi Hosomi, former finance vice-minister for international affairs and now an adviser to the Bank of Japan, said it will entail introducing "offshore accounts" exempt from Japan's 10 per cent income tax deducted at source to invite deposits by non-residents.

It will give foreign banks a chance to engage in the same operations in Tokyo as in London and New York and would lessen any dollar shortage in Tokyo, helping to reduce Japan's current account deficit.

Vehicle exports up

Toyota vehicle exports in March rose 35 per cent from the previous year and Nissan exported a record 140,000 vehicles in March up 41.8 per cent from a year earlier. Toyota's exports to Britain rose 8.9 per cent over the year and Nissan's were up by 16.6 per cent.

Smaller Krugerrands

South Africa's International Gold Corporation will start marketing half-ounce, quarter-ounce, and one-tenth of an ounce fine gold Krugerrands by the end of this year in addition to the one-ounce coins already available.

US production down

Industrial production in the United States declined by a seasonally adjusted 0.8 per cent in March the Federal Reserve Board said. The March decline comes after a drop of a downward revised 0.2 per cent in February and a rise of 0.3 per cent in January.

Chinese trade surplus

China registered a trade surplus of 2,500m yuan (£709m) in the first quarter of 1980, China's domestic news agency reported.

System X may be made abroad

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

Parts of Britain's forthcoming System X family of digital electronic telephone exchanges may be made under licence in eastern European countries. Preliminary discussions have been held in which the prospect of sales of System X equipment have been linked to local manufacture or partial manufacture.

Mr John Sharpley, managing director of British Telecommunications Systems, the company set up to market System X overseas, said yesterday in Birmingham that the Soviet Union, Romania, and other communist countries were showing marked interest in the British system.

Speaking at the Communications 80 exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Mr Sharpley said that he had made a preliminary visit to Moscow, and would be returning for more detailed talks later.

Several of the Eastern-block countries were interested in building up their national telecommunications industries, and saw the licence-production of System X as a potential means of doing this.

CBI dispute fund may bring longer strikes

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry's strike fund proposals could provoke longer strikes, according to two university economists.

Mr Brian Chiplin, lecturer in industrial economics at Nottingham University and Mr Neil Doherty, associate professor in finance and management science at Alberta University, Canada, published their appraisal in the April issue of *Lloyd's Bank Review* yesterday.

The report says unions could break the fund, either by calling a general strike or setting up their own fund to finance strikes in key industrial sectors.

Announcing this year's Design Council awards in the engineering products and components sections, Mr Grant said that with the depressed nature of the industry in the United Kingdom, the products nominated for awards represented a "fantastic ray of sunshine in an otherwise gloomy scene".

The two academics say that the fund might lessen employers' resistance to strikes and would be most in demand by those which are most exposed to strike risks. They say that, although the problems will be intensified if the fund is to be used as a deliberate incentive to rebalance bargaining units.

The article concedes that the literature on wage bargaining does suggest fairly strongly that an improvement in the bargaining stand of the employer will lead to lower wage settlements.

The CBI is carrying out detailed consultations with its members about the strike fund plan. Its council is due to decide within the next few

months whether to go ahead with it in order to get the fund operating by next winter's wage negotiating round.

The feedback from the consultants so far has been one of support with a ratio of roughly three industrialists in favour to one against the idea, mainly on the grounds that it would provide a gesture of employer solidarity to counterbalance that of the unions.

However there is still uncertainty about whether sufficient numbers will be prepared to pay up to get the scheme off the ground.

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The CBI is carrying out detailed consultations with its members about the strike fund plan. Its council is due to decide within the next few

Engineering design in UK praised

By Edward Townsend

Britain's engineering design expertise was praised yesterday by Mr Keith Grant, director of the Design Council for its world-beating standard of design and sophistication.

Announcing this year's Design Council awards in the engineering products and components sections, Mr Grant said that with the depressed nature of the industry in the United Kingdom, the products nominated for awards represented a "fantastic ray of sunshine in an otherwise gloomy scene".

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Season ticket tax relief will put real rail issues under the rug

From Mr John R. Ogilvie
Sir, Increases in the cost of energy and other commodities, together with the coming pay settlement, mean that rail fares will rise at least once more this year. The present clamour for tax relief on season tickets will only sweep the real issues—notably ineffective railway management, under the rug.

British Rail, unable to run trains on time, may lose a £35m contract with the Post Office. This is twice as much revenue as they can possibly hope to secure with an investment of £150m in a fleet of 60 advanced passenger trains.

In the past 15 years, British Rail have lost sundries and parcels traffic worth £100m at today's prices largely due to their obsession with inter-city traffic and higher speeds. More and more letters, parcels and freight are going by air and road so the commuter and the regular rail user have become more disenchanted than ever with the whole fabric of BR and the way the trains are run. People with a continuing professional interest in the rail system deplore the feeble quality of BR's strategic, technical and economic planning.

What hope is there of cheaper season tickets when the new and very ugly coaches for commuter trains cost £155,000 each? After 32 years of set-down, nationalization has proved to be an economic disaster, and railwaymen are now among the

lowest-paid men in the simple reason that flow is too low.

Lacking of tax subsidies or bigger subsidies is ridiculous. We can't run three systems and put 87 per cent of traffic on one of them. Rail management's killer instinct. This is never recover in the establishment of political favourites, return to the rail spuds, dies and cures. No one will stand by them until people have some stake in them.

What better subject for public debate than regional economic development?

The GWR was indeed wonderful railway upon a time when we had wonderful railways.

JOHN R. OGILVIE,
14 Plymouth Park,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

March 31.

IBA: no dissent from new TV plans

From Mr Derek Bloom
Sir, Mr Nicholas Baker, MP seems to think that advertisers are asking for a free all on television. Let us be clear that the Incorporated Society for British Advertisers (ISBA) does not dissent from the Government's plans for the new service under the IBA, separate management board, high proportion of programmes from independent producers, "complementary" with ITV—with the exception of the six time sales arrangements. We would prefer to see those in the hands of independent specialist companies, with no pretensions to make programmes and no voice in programming matters.

If Mr Baker is correct, in

saying that ITV and BBC are

competing for ratings, then we

have a ratings war already, so

that a new service ought not to

make things worse. If a new service would nevertheless

make things worse, then it is

irretrievable.

It is regrettable which has

to go in the

same sense that

BBC2 makes the public sector

more competitive with ITV.

I wonder, incidentally, whether Mr Baker has thought

of the impact here of satellite

television organised from the

continent? They are con-

fidently expected within four

years, it is said, after the ap-

pearance of the Fourth Channel.

As to the alleged commercial pressures from the advertiser, apparently over the years 1973 to 1979 they led to an increase in ITV hours devoted to "current affairs" (+15 per cent), "arts" and "sciences" (+18 per cent), while the pro-

Views on 'entitlement and scrounging'

From Miss Ruth I. Johns

Sir, In the course of my job, I come into contact with senior executives (up to managing director and chairman) level from business and industry when they are planning early retirement, usually with very favourable severance terms.

Since the Budget, some very interesting views have come to light among this group, who have for some years been among the keenest proponents of the need to clamp down on "social security scrounging".

One who has refused the argument that "entitlement" was a good enough reason in itself to raise state benefits irrespective of need.

The Budget, with its proposed end to earnings-related benefit, will in due course put an end to senior executives entitlement to earnings related tax-free benefit (for a period after they retire "early"). In addition to their company pension and severance payments, &c. This proposal seems to have made some in this group very angry: indeed some are choosing to take earnings-related benefit straight away, in preference to proposed second career paid jobs; so

they do not miss out on related benefit.

It is also interesting to note that the state pension is being reduced instead of a safety net.

If the emotional reaction of need of need in this case is not the best, then the argument about the state pension is also not the best.

RUTH I. JOHNS,
53 Brown Park,
Middlesbrough.

JOHN I. JACOBS & COMPANY LIMITED

A More Successful Year Despite Difficulties

The Annual General Meeting of John I. Jacobs & Company Limited will be held on 8th May, 1980, London. The following is a summary of the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Jacob.

The strength of the U.K. pound against the U.S. dollar was a serious handicap during the year but on the other hand it last international freight and ship sale and purchase markets took a decided turn for the better. As a result our broking departments, that is to say our main business effort, had a more successful year. In the tanker and the sale and purchase departments in particular the extra business transacted and the higher rates at which such business was concluded brought about considerably better trading profits. As usual this required all concern to work consistently hard to achieve such results in these highly competitive spheres of activity. On stockholders' behalf I should like to thank those directly concerned and indeed all our people most wholeheartedly for their sustained efforts during the year.

These broking companies both here and overseas in which we have very large amounts of financial interests are also performing quite satisfactorily. They also pursue their activities in strongly competitive markets and those of them that are long established trade profitably and pay worthwhile dividends. Those more recently formed continue to establish themselves and hopefully they too will become success stories of the future.

River Craft Contract Nearing Satisfactory Conclusion

Last year I drew your attention to the fact that we had placed a shipbuilding contract with a west country shipyard for a launch for use on the lower River Thames. I did say that provided the builders delivered this vessel on time and in accordance with the contract we should have a satisfactory deal. Notwithstanding the fact that the original shipyard went into liquidation, we still expect to take delivery of a similar launch which has now been built by the Yorkshire Dry Dock Company on the River Hull. With the welcome full agreement of our long-term charterers, George Wheeler Launches Limited, we were able to sign a fresh contract with these last named builders and delivery of the craft is expected by the end of April. It is extremely pleasant to

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Two views of Rowntree

Rowntree Mackintosh are now in a strong position that arises when two very distinct views as to the future of a company. In this, the management's view that the long-term strategy in Europe has emerged from a dismal year, in which its fall by about 10 per cent

however, says well and good: "amer acceptance—last of the VAT which knocked last year's £100m sales for six and given no improvement in the pound" led some £5m of profits from Rowntree's share of the market. The management's view that the long-term strategy in Europe has emerged from a dismal year, in which its fall by about 10 per cent

again dividend which points to an ex-rights yield of over 10 per cent should ensure success unless the market takes a real turn for the worse.

Standard Chartered

Below expectations

After the one-fifth advance in first half profits and the strong performance recently put up by Grindlays and Hongkong and Shanghai, much better things had been expected from Standard Chartered, with a broadly similar spread of geographical interests, than the 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits of £169.8m last year.

Much of the difference between market estimates in the £180-£190 range and the eventual outturn is accounted for by the higher bad debt provision in the second half and the fact that much of the income from its recent California acquisition Union Bank is from tax-exempt bonds.

Grossing this income up would have added almost £10m to the pre-tax figure. Because of this and with a little help from tax sheltering in South Africa the tax charge has fallen 6 points to just over 50 per cent, and net profits have jumped by an impressive 31 per cent to £70.8m.

For the rest the strength of sterling is still proving a problem cutting 1979 profits. South Africa is also a bit below expectations largely because conditions there have forced the bank to switch away from corporate lending into the personal field, where the move into credit cards and hire purchase has pushed up the bad debt provision.

With Hongkong and South East Asia strong, the only real weak spot has been the United Kingdom where despite higher earnings from foreign exchange dealing and the metals companies the squeeze on margins from higher money costs has meant a dull time for the hire purchase side.

In the current year world trade should keep profits moving ahead nicely while the United Kingdom interests will benefit from lower interest rates so the 1980 outturn should move in sight of £200m.

Despite a better than forecast dividend at the time of last year's rights issue of 37.1p gross, the shares dropped 20p to 47.2p where the yield of almost 8 per cent is above average for the banking sector.

With the Midland share sale now out of the way and the likelihood of another good increase in the dividend this year, Standard still looks good value in the banking sector. The free equity ratio of 2.2 per cent following the Union Bank purchase has dropped below that of the clearers generally although another fund raising exercise is unlikely for the next couple of years.

Smiths Industries

Recovery potential

Smiths Industries increased profits without interruption throughout the last decade, and despite the setback in interim profits, the group may yet turn in a new record in the year to July.

Although Smiths still has problems with its motor vehicle and marine activities and the distribution business has met flat demand, the £1.7m fall in half-year profits to £9.26m before tax can be squarely blamed on the engineering strike.

This cut about £3m off first quarter profits, although some was recovered in the second quarter. All the United Kingdom activities suffered—particularly aerospace where discontent rumbled on after the strike ended and pre-interest profits were halved to £1.09m.

With order books at a record, aerospace should recover strongly in the second half and longer-term the prospects are good. Smiths also has strength in its other industries division.

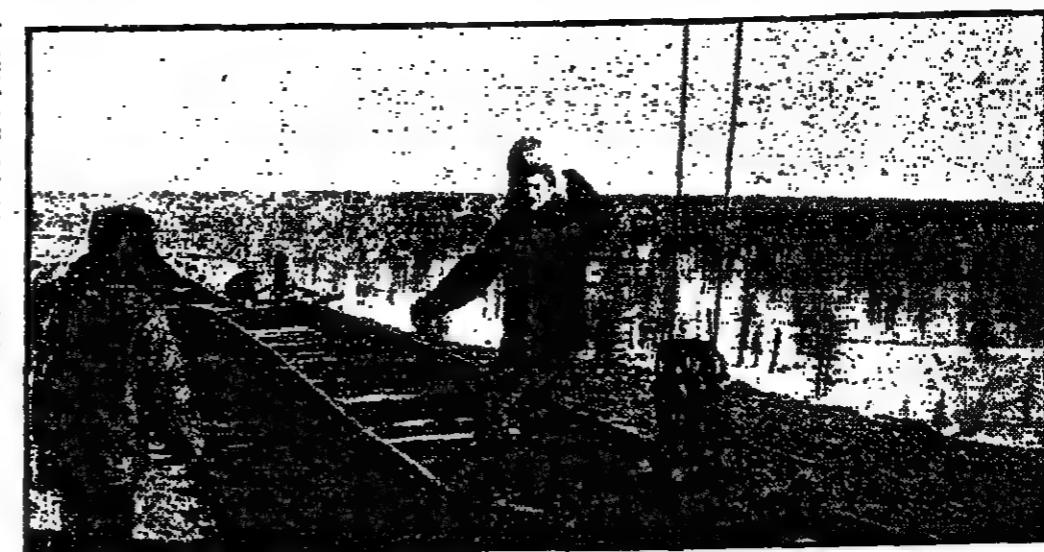
Pre-interest profits from overseas were over a third higher at £2.77m with some help from acquisitions and should continue to grow.

These growth areas should provide a cushion against the weaker components business where BL takes half of the original equipment and Iran is still an important customer through the Talbot link.

Profits for the full year should run out close to 1978-79's £25m and show a further increase the year after. At 20.9p a yield of around 7 per cent and fully-taxed prospective p/e ratio of about 8 does not look too tempting in view of the better than average prospects.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1980

Planning becomes a nightmare for Moscow



Laying a section of the 1,800-mile long Baikal-Amur railway in eastern Siberia.

Last year was outstandingly bad for the Soviet economy. Growth fell to an all-time low of 1.9 per cent; the weather adversely affected the grain harvest; industrial production was well below expectations. Indeed, there was an absolute fall in output of such important products as coal, steel, cement, fertilizer and railway locomotives.

The pages of the Soviet press are filled with sharply critical articles. The railway cannot cope with freight movements: "I saw with my own eyes at Leningrad piles of good timber which have been awaiting transport for five years" (Pravda, January 27, 1980).

The investment programme is over-expanded and construction delays are growing, and meanwhile "from year to year utterly hopeless plans are based upon equally utterly hopeless measures" (Pravda, February 26, 1980).

Mr Brezhnev has complained that many consumer goods, such as needles, thread, toothbrushes and babies' nappies, are unobtainable. Food supplies are gravely short.

The preliminary figures for the first quarter of 1980 do not show a notable improvement over the previous year. But it is clear that the five-year plan which ends in 1980 will not be fulfilled.

Specialist journals and Pravda articles regularly discuss ways and means of achieving the necessary increase in efficiency and labour productivity.

A decree reforming national planning and management was issued in July 1979, but this did

more than to change the system still essentially centralized. Indeed,

the effect of the changes that have been introduced is to make it, if anything, more centralized still.

Centralized planning is a source of both strength and weakness. It enables the political leadership to determine priorities, to direct to key sectors the best materials, and to attract to them the best labour and management. (This is power over

time, labour and materials.)

Since most incomes are paid by the state, it has been

possible to enforce an incomes policy. Thus in 1980 average wages will be 15 per cent

above 1975 levels; this is actually less than the "16-18 per cent" promised in the original five-year plan document. In

striking contrast to the West, trade unions do not demand

higher wages in the Soviet

Union and there is no unemployment; on the contrary, there is a serious shortage of

labour.

Centralized planning is in operation. There has been a spectacular increase over the last 10 years in the output of oil and natural gas in north-west Siberia as well as a vast oil and gas pipeline construction programme, with some pipelines leading all the way to central Europe.

The new Baikal-Amur railway, soon to be completed, will open up some of the mineral riches of east Siberia.

There have been many difficulties, not the least of them transport (the Trans-Siberian is heavily overloaded) but, bearing in mind the natural obstacles to be overcome, these are surely examples of the

success of a long-range energy policy.

In the Soviet Union a long-term energy plan is in operation.

There is a massive

investment in millions of pairs,

tens of thousands more

of tons of coal, oil and gas

and nuclear power

plants, but even so there

are often short of minor inputs of

many kinds, and either have to

suffer because of the truly

impossible scale of centralized

planning; in principle, every

production unit must be told

what to produce, where to

deliver and from whom to

obtain the necessary inputs;

it must be given targets for

such factors as output, labour

productivity, wages and profits.

But there are literally mil-

lions of different products so

the "plan" becomes a multi-

itude of "plan-instructions"

issuing from numerous minis-

tries, committees and depart-

ments. Coordination becomes a

nightmare.

To enable the centre to cope

with an impossible job it is

necessary to aggregate the mil-

lions of products into a smaller

number (for example, "foot-

wear", "ball-bearings", "mis-

cellaneous agricultural machin-

ery", with plant-targets

expressed in millions of pairs,

tens or hundreds of thousands

of tons or roubles. The result is

neglect of quality and of the

customers' requirements, and

also sheer waste; thus anyone

who plans in tons

is penalized if a new design

happens to weigh less.

Innovation, though genuinely

desired, is in fact discouraged

by the fact that management is

judged above all by the fulfil-

ment of delivery obligations into

"most important" (vazheznye)

and others, supposedly less impor-

tant. But there are often com-

plementary to one another:

thus fertilizer supplies in-

creased much faster than did

the means to spread it in the

fields, and Pravda noted the

fact that, in the clothing indus-

try, tractors are on the list of

"most important", but

zip-fasteners are not.

Virtually all these weaknesses

arise, directly or indirectly,

from the unsound and excessive

investment boom of 1971-75;

investment rose by 12.5 per cent

in those five years, money

wages by 60 per cent with

large-scale borrowing from the

West. The consequence was

severe overstrain followed by

deflationary recessions. Half-

hearted attempts to reform the

planning system have been put

into cold storage. Poland is

perhaps the most vulnerable of

the eastern economies.

In the Soviet Union, a few

voices have been raised advo-

cating a Hungarian-style

reform, with more reliance on

the market mechanism, as an

essential precondition for effi-

cacy. Central planning would

be confined to structurally

significant investment decisions

and to such key sectors as

energy, metallurgy, transport

and, of course, armaments.

Such proposals as these arouse

strong opposition and will not

be adopted by the present

generation.

Virtually all these weaknesses

arise, directly or indirectly,

from the impossibly large scale of

central planning.

The task is made more difficult by

the lack of reliable information:

management tends to under-

state its production potential

while overstating its needs for

labour and materials; and

the plan is expressed in tons

and not in tonnes.

It is a common practice for

extra hours to be given to

staff with long service.

LT & WIBORG GROUP

intpoints from the Statement

Chairman, Mr. C. F. Strang.

9 Trading profit increased by 6 from £3.33m to a record 75m.

nings per stock unit increased from 9.40p to 17.88p. The Company expanded its are potential by the acquisition in 1979 of the assets of former Research Laboratories and the business and assets of Icliffes Inks.

ed assets increased by £4m. Dividend per stock unit 2.30p (78 - 2.16p).

PAINTS · CHEMICALS · ENGINEERING

Metralax

dings) Limited

grated network of engineering

ies in England and Wales

ther material increase

1979	1978
£'000	£'000
over	21,588
before taxation	2,529
after taxation	1,627

fore taxation show a further material increase to £2.53m, up of 45% on net assets employed.

is recommended are slightly in excess of twice the dividends ear.

ders funds and liquidity. less funds have increased from £4.535m to £5.820m. The of cash amounted to £1.565m, but £1.821m was paid for sition for cash of George Wilkinson (Bunley) Limited, the of which have yet to be seen. In addition more than £1m t last year on new plant and machinery and improved

issue of one ordinary share for every ten held is being ided.

will do everything in its power to prove the prophets of and will aim as always to do rather better than its

the report and accounts from: stary Metralax (Holdings) Limited road Kings Norton Birmingham B38 5PN tel: 021-488 6571

Signs of recovery in the level of business activity"

Extracts from a statement by the Chairman, M G R Sandberg, O.B.E.

New location for Head Office
British Bank of the Middle East became of Hongkong Bank Group, our s have become increasingly integrated of the Group's other members. The of our Head Office to Hong Kong will a closest liaison with Group Head Office the Group to give the most efficient service to its customers.

Year's Results and Capital Structure
all operating profit for the year showed movement for the year previous. s in the Middle East have risen and been signs of a recovery in the level of activity.

son between our results for 1979 and 1978 by the appreciation of sterling, which ed the value in sterling terms of assets by branches.

It's consolidated after-tax published profit 37,649, compared with £4,821,492 in 1978. ds paid to the parent shareholder were 100.

solidated Reserve Account has increased 107,045. The unappropriated profit carried will be increased by £907,971 to a total 9,026, so that the consolidated total of Capital and Reserves of the Bank will stand 36,071.

The Balance Sheet
ticipal item affecting comparison of our Balance Sheet with that of 1978 is the of sterling against the US dollar, in tency a significant proportion of our is denominated. Thus, the apparent in Current Deposit and Other Accounts of £1,369 million to £1,317 million) and Short Term Funds, at £532 million, show



an increase of 22%. This shows a stronger liquid position than in previous years, and represents over 39% of Current Liabilities. This increased liquidity reflects the reduction in holdings of Trade Bills and Certificates of Deposit Purchased totalling £54 million, while our Time Deposits with Banks totalling £243 million now represent a further 18% of Current Liabilities.

Nationalisation of The Bank of Iran and the Middle East which has adversely affected the 1979 results has also reduced the level of Fixed Assets which otherwise show no significant change.

The Middle East Scene
In our long experience of serving the people of the Middle East we have undergone many changes, some voluntary, some not. Last year was a arduous one in the region and some of our branches were confronted with exceptional difficulties, which our staff handled with their accustomed skill. These were the conditions in which it was considered desirable to strengthen liquidity.

In economic matters the most significant event was the loss of Saudi Arabia's stabilising influence over oil prices. In December 1978, just after the OPEC meeting had produced a programme for regular quarterly price increases for 1979, exports from Iran ceased altogether and did not resume for three months. Saudi Arabia endeavoured to provide compensating supplies but its ability to raise its production proved to be considerably less than had been generally believed, while a severe winter added to the difficulties of consuming countries.

Although preliminary estimates of 1979 trade figures confirm a slackening of pace the more populous states continue to have large development needs and it is hoped that they will be able to maintain their progress.

The Staff
I thank all the staff for their successful efforts in a testing year.

The British Bank of the Middle East

A Member of The Hongkong Bank Group

FINANCIAL NEWS

Growth slows at News Int

By Philip Robinson

New American ventures and the sale of part of its stake in L. W. T. Holdings hit profits of Mr Rupert Murdoch's publishing empire News International last year.

The group's share of associated companies fell from a profit of £1.8m to a loss of £36,000, and slowed the overall profits growth of the group, whose United Kingdom publications include the Sun and the News of the World, to a rise of 12.18 per cent.

At the pre-tax level, earnings went up from £24.9m to £27.9m on a corresponding 12 per cent rise in turnover to £200m.

Mr Murdoch said in a statement accompanying the figures that the increased profit reflects the improvement in trading in most divisions which include paper making.

Briefly

Restro Investments: Offer made on behalf of Restro for Polly Peck has closed for acceptances, which have been received in respect of 32,029,000 shares. Ord (agreed 32.15 per cent of the ordinary rights).

London & Overseas Freighters has signed contracts with Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Company for the construction of two 55,000 dwt general tankers for delivery in 1982. Total cost is expected to be in the region of £27m.

Assam Trading (Holdings): Board

states that it is obvious from number of proxy forms received that proposals to be submitted to the shareholders at a general meeting have aroused a great deal of interest. Votes represented by proxies lodged show that there are majorities in favour of all resolutions.

Moray Cory & Co: Turnover for the previous year, pre-tax profit was £47.9m (£510,000). Earnings per share were 3.82p (3.34p). Final dividend is 0.99p gross, making 1.85p gross (1p gross).

London and Strathclyde Trust: Gross revenue for half year, in the end of February £528,000 (£336,500). Earnings per share 1.79p (0.53p). Net asset value per share 72.29 (62.7p). Interim dividend 1.1p gross (0.5p) has been declared. Earnings a share fell from 28.8p

much better placed to meet future conditions.

The group has the additional advantage that sales of its product range have shown remarkable stability in the past in the face of downturns in the economy."

Last year, Cadbury pushed pre-tax profits from £48.2m to a record £57.3m during what Sir Adrian describes as a period of "substantial progress".

The dividend rises in step

by nearly 20 per cent to 5.47p or 7.52p gross.

At this point reality intrudes.

Earnings a share fell from 28.8p

to 22.3p, but as the chairman, Mr Thomas Kenny, explains, Duracol has bought several companies, "resulting in a substantial increase in the share capital and reserves. Comparisons with 1978 are therefore not relevant."

In addition, Mr Kenny, who

is also chairman of GRI International and Rutherford, points out that but for the engineering

strike profits would probably have been £250,000 greater.

Dates was part of Mr

William Stern's empire.

The profits came from house-

building and property invest-

ment on the south coast of Eng-

land, especially Hampshire and

Dorset, in the Midlands, particu-

larly Birmingham and Soli-

hull; and in Cheshire, Lancashire and central London.

Noting that there is still a

large sum in the losses still to

be used, the directors report

an increase in earnings after

extraordinary items, of

37.5 per cent to 5.6p. The final

dividend is to be 0.68p taking

the total dividend up from by

50 per cent to 1.13p net, or

1.62p gross.

Dates says that the land bank

stays strong with more than 400

plots, ample to cope with the

next two years.

However, in four years net

asset value a share has more

than doubled to 25p.



Mr. Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International.

Dares Estates beats forecast

Dares Estates, the Birmingham-based property and housebuilding company, has comfortably beaten the profit forecast it made with its cash up of one-for-four that reached £450,000 last August.

Mr Peter Jackson, the chairman, then forecast pretax profits of £265,000 against £264,000 last time. The group now reports that last year's profit was as much as £504,500, thanks to a greater number of sales of flats held as investment properties.

Stripping out such extraordinary items indicates pretax profits of only £78,000 against £264,000, which points to the group's reliance on dealing.

Turnover during the year rose by 50 per cent to £5.46m.

The group points out that the total profits are up for the fourth year running.

The group's board took office in 1976 when it acquired about 65 per cent of the ordinary capital at 2p a share.

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REFUGE

ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

RESULTS FOR 1979

- Total Premium Income £69.7 millions (1978 - £55.3 millions)

Bonuses up in both Life Branches

The surplus for the year allocated to policyholders was £26.4 millions (1978 £20.8 millions)

Company assets increased

At December 31st 1979 the total assets amounted to £433 millions (1978 £393 millions)

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD
Chief Office (& Registered Office)
Oxford Street, Manchester M60 7HA
Registered Number 1364C England

Cadbury Schweppes resolute on spending

Cadbury Schweppes is determined not to let economic uncertainty deflect it from its current investment policy during the next two years, according to chairman Sir Adrian Cadbury.

In the annual report, he tells shareholders that as a result of the decision taken three years ago to concentrate on major international brands with proven success, the group is

much better placed to meet future conditions.

The group has the additional advantage that sales of its product range have shown remarkable stability in the past in the face of downturns in the economy."

Last year, Cadbury pushed

pre-tax profits from £48.2m to a record £57.3m during

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts drift back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 14. Dealings End, April 25. 5 Contingent Day, April 28. Settlement Day, May 6.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

